

Phoenix

RESURRECTION

OSAMU TEZUKA

vol. 5

Phoenix

RESURRECTION

Osamu Tezuka's *Phoenix* was his life's work. Considered by many to be one of the finest works of Japanese comics art ever produced, *Phoenix:Resurrection* takes place in the year 3344. Prof. Saruta lands on the moon and meets and acquires Robita in his final form. Spanning 860 years, the end of this episode goes beyond *Phoenix:Universe* and comes close to the beginning of *Phoenix:Future*.

"...breathtakingly paced and gorgeously composed pages, alive with passion and humor." —*L.A. Weekly*

"Tezuka's visual imagination is as stunning as his narrative is ambitious...a work guaranteed to blow [readers'] minds."

—*Publishers Weekly*

"A milestone in manga translation."

—*The Comics Journal*



PHOENIX: RESURRECTION

005 AD 2482

044 AD 2483

091 AD 3030

122 AD 2484

181 AD 3009

207 AD 3030

219 AD 2484

305 AD 2917

310 AD 3344

319 About this Edition

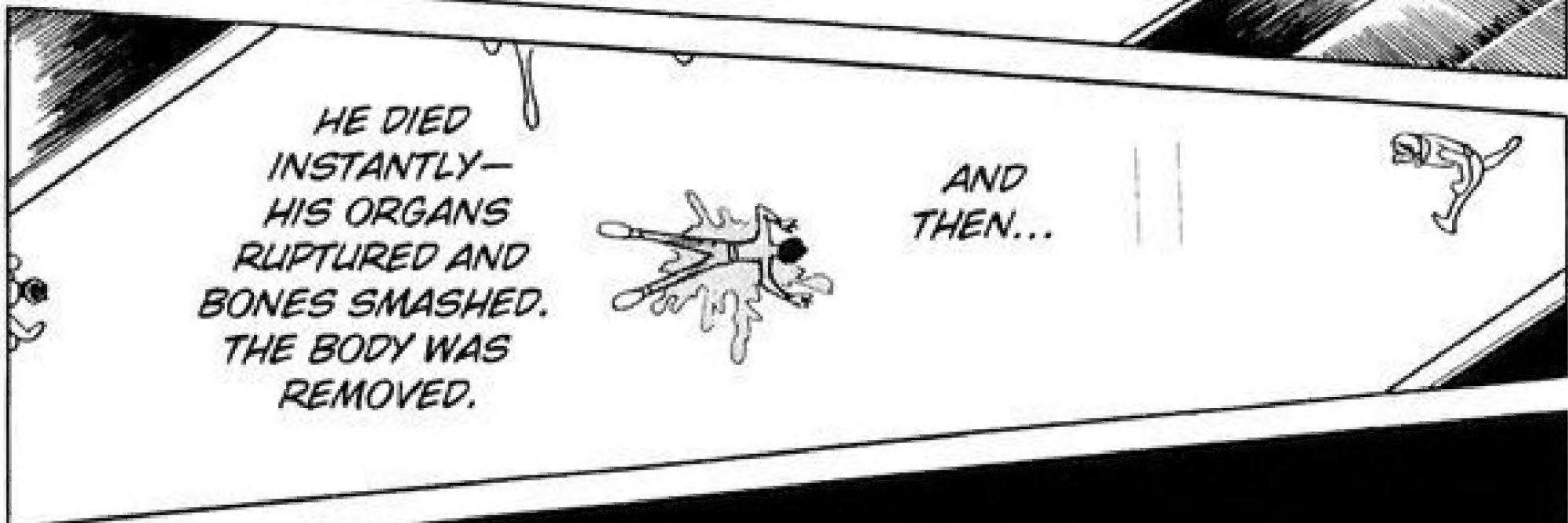
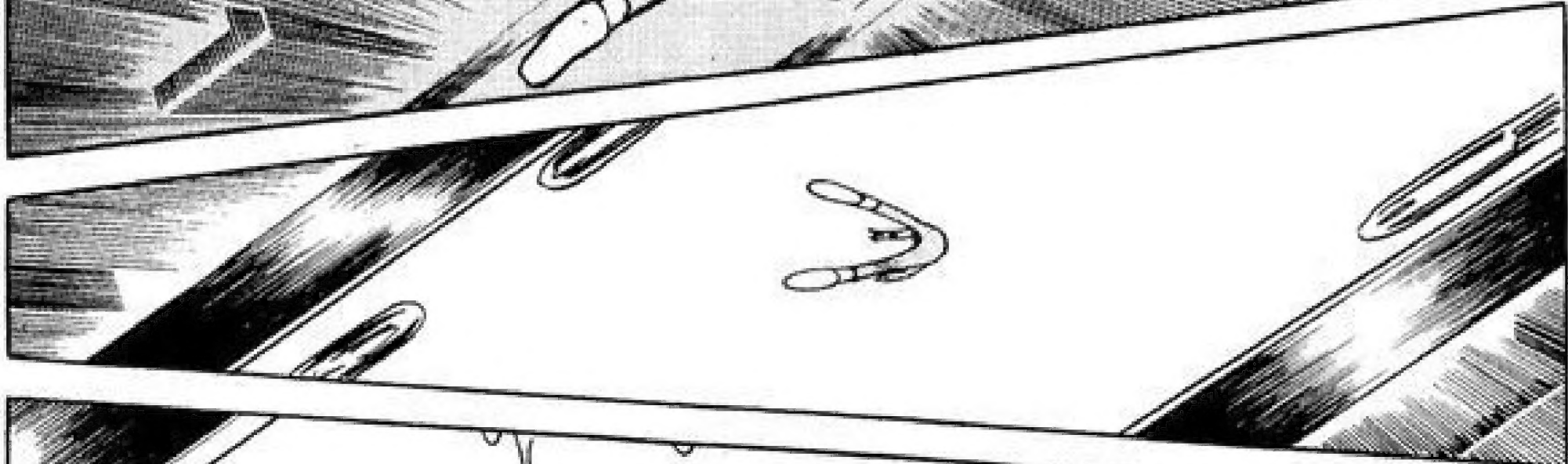
320 Overview

322 Afterword

324 Phoenix and Me

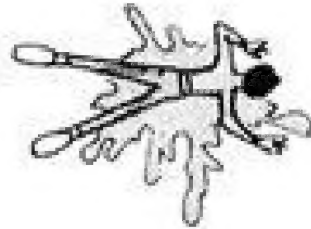


ONE DAY IN
2482 A.D. A
BOY FELL TO
HIS DEATH
FROM HIS AIR
CAR... SUCH
ACCIDENTS
WERE COMMON-
PLACE AND
USUALLY FOR-
GOTTEN, BUT
THIS IS WHERE
OUR STORY
BEGINS...



HE DIED
INSTANTLY—
HIS ORGANS
RUPTURED AND
BONES SMASHED.
THE BODY WAS
REMOVED.

AND
THEN...



...ALL WAS NOTHINGNESS...

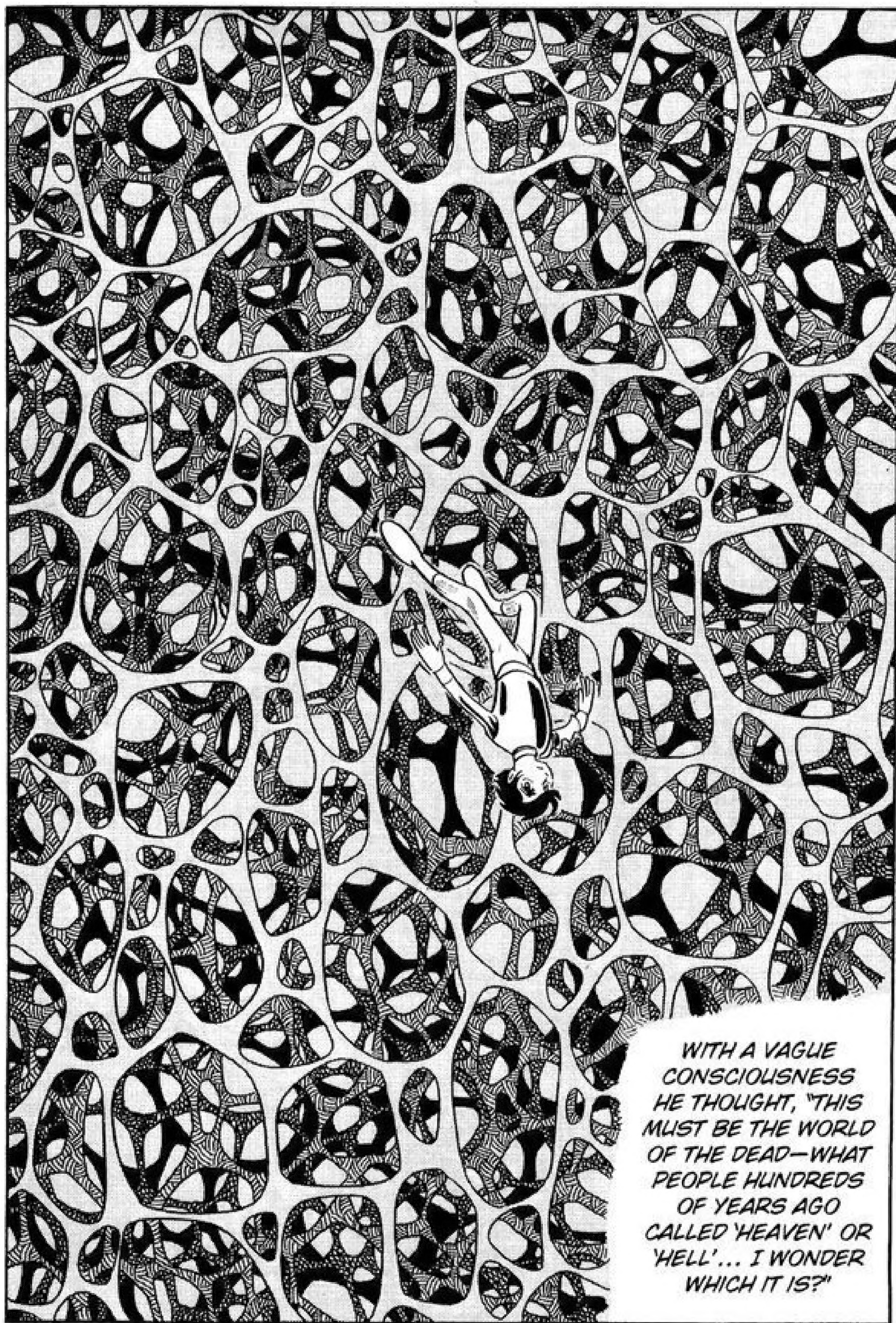
Resurrection

By: Osamu Tezuka

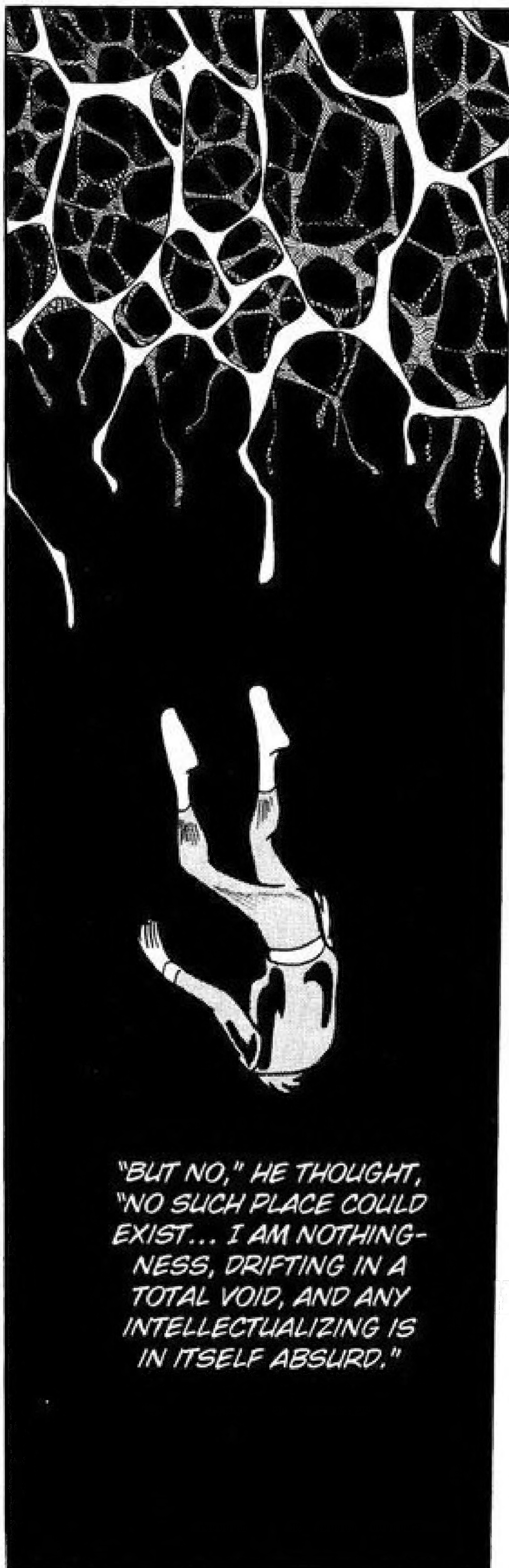
Translated by: Dada Association

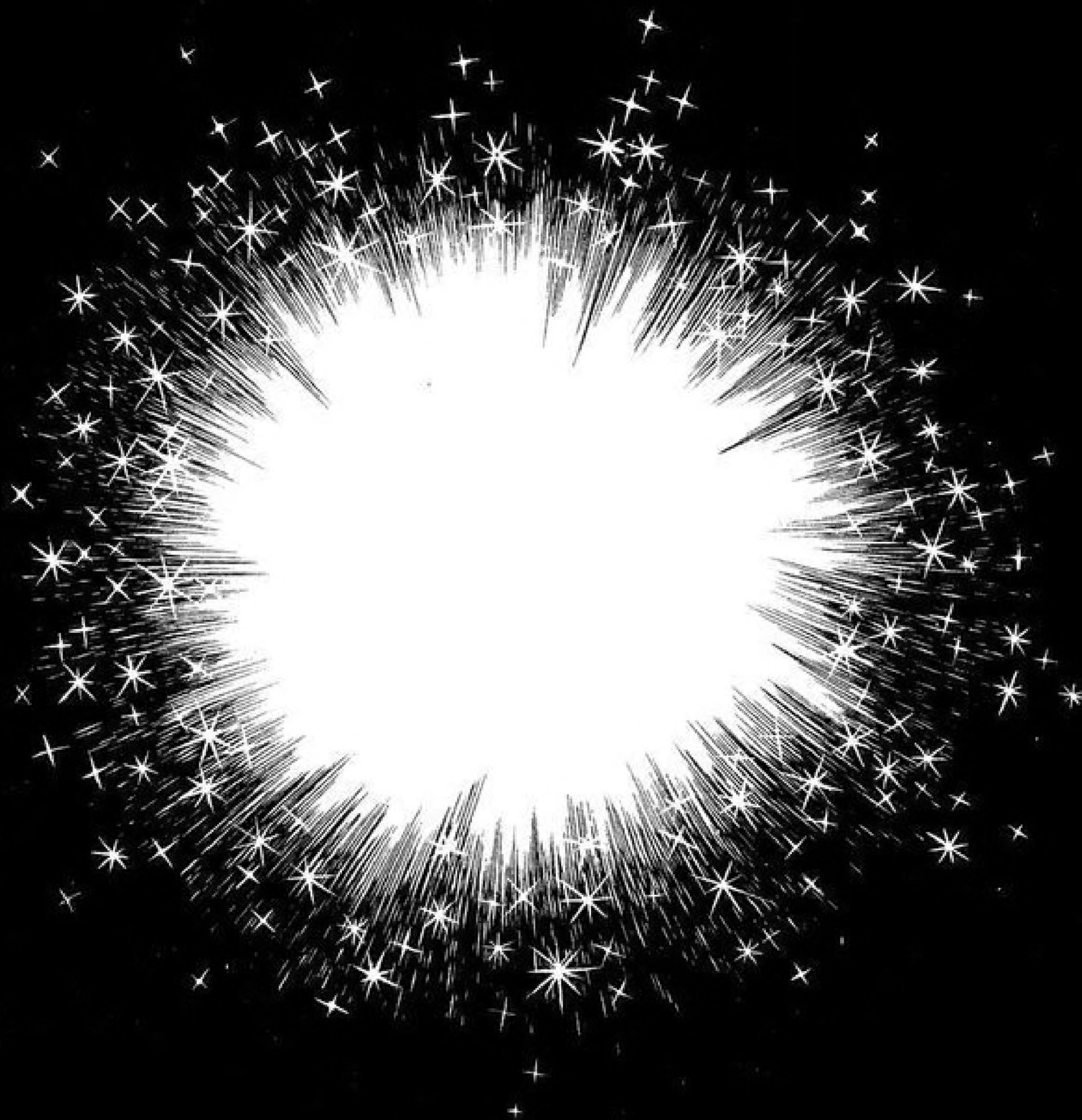
THE BOY SUDDENLY
FELT HIMSELF
FLOATING SLOWLY
ABOVE AN ENDLESS
DARK PLAIN.






WITH A VAGUE
CONSCIOUSNESS
HE THOUGHT, "THIS
MUST BE THE WORLD
OF THE DEAD—WHAT
PEOPLE HUNDREDS
OF YEARS AGO
CALLED 'HEAVEN' OR
'HELL'... I WONDER
WHICH IT IS?"



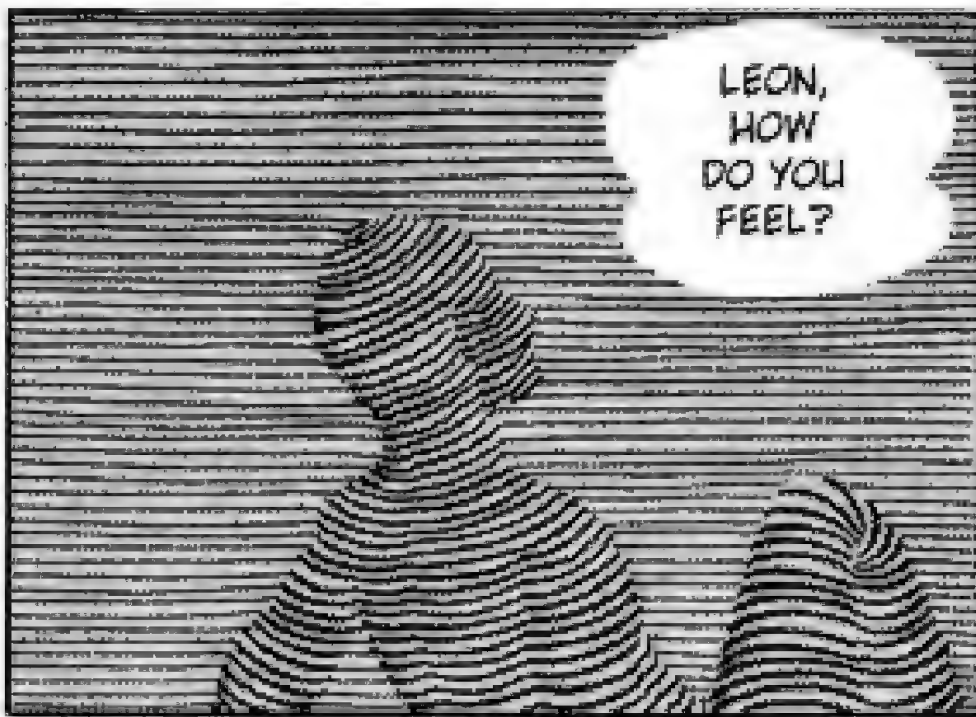


IT WAS
THE EXIT
FROM THE
WORLD
OF THE
DEAD.

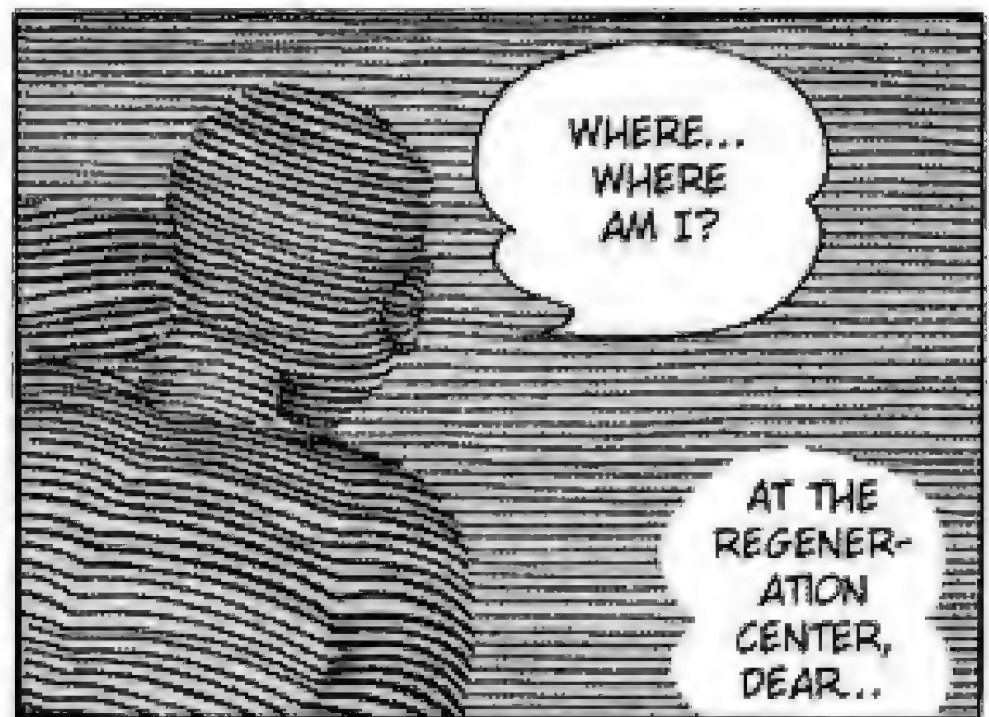


HE WAS SUDDENLY
LIBERATED FROM
DEATH, BUT STILL
NOT ALIVE. THE
TRANSITION WAS SO
RAPID THAT HE
SOMEHOW FELT AS
THOUGH HE WAS
INORGANIC, AND
DID NOT VENTURE TO
MOVE FOR SEVERAL
HOURS.

...LATER HE WOULD
FIND OUT WHY...

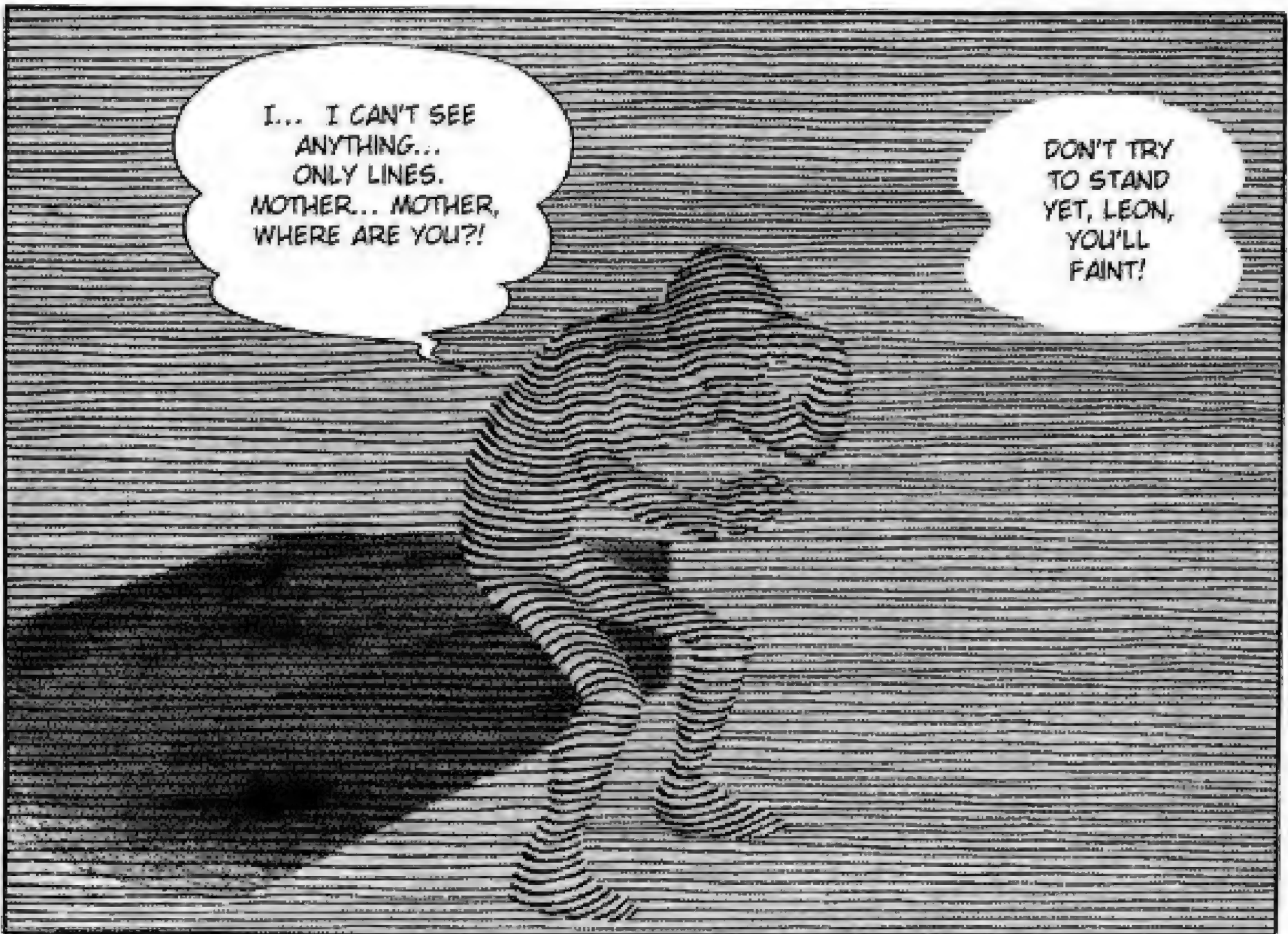


LEON,
HOW
DO YOU
FEEL?



WHERE...
WHERE
AM I?

AT THE
REGENER-
ATION
CENTER,
DEAR...



I... I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING...
ONLY LINES.
MOTHER... MOTHER,
WHERE ARE YOU?!

DON'T TRY
TO STAND
YET, LEON,
YOU'LL
FAINT!

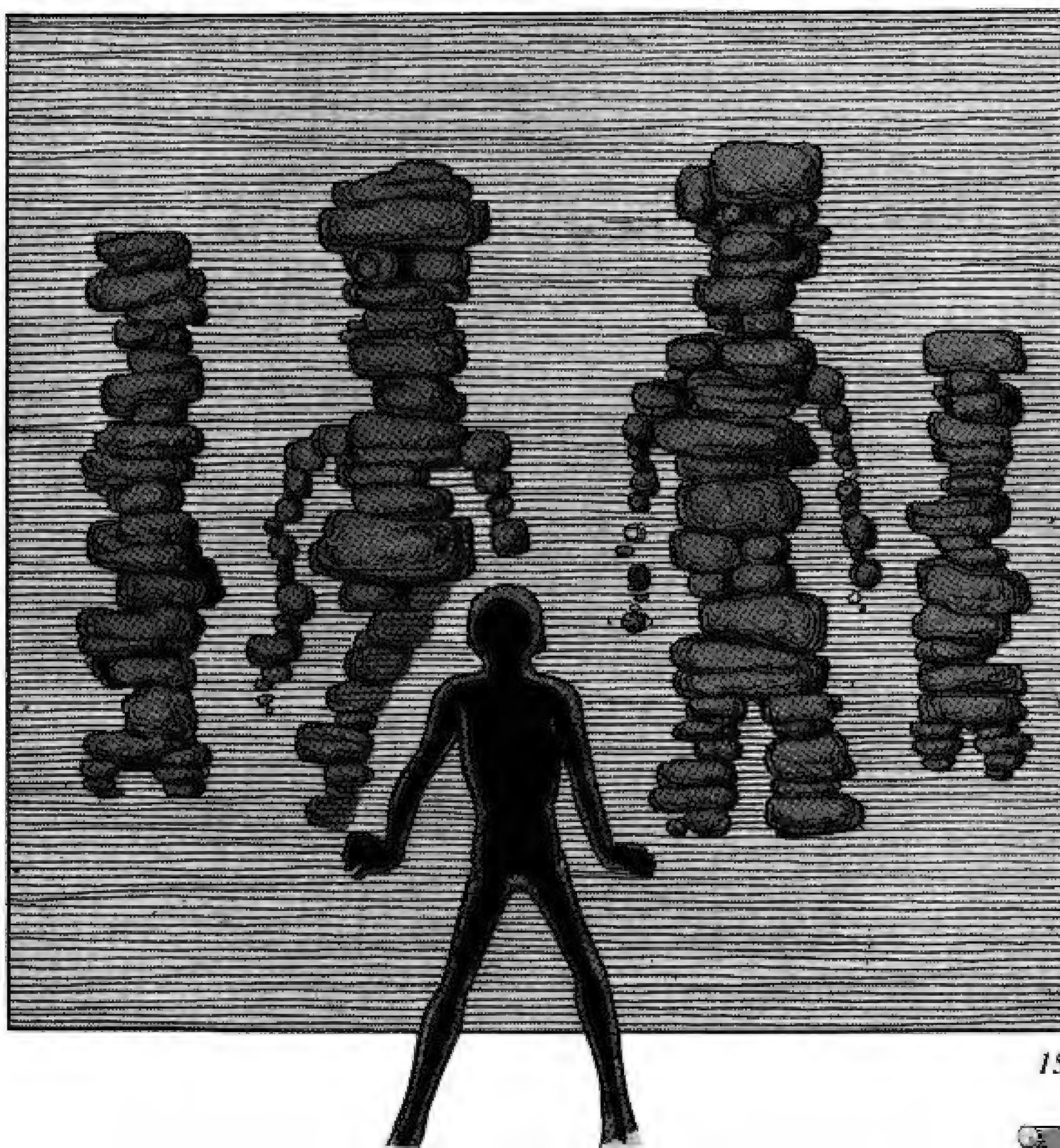


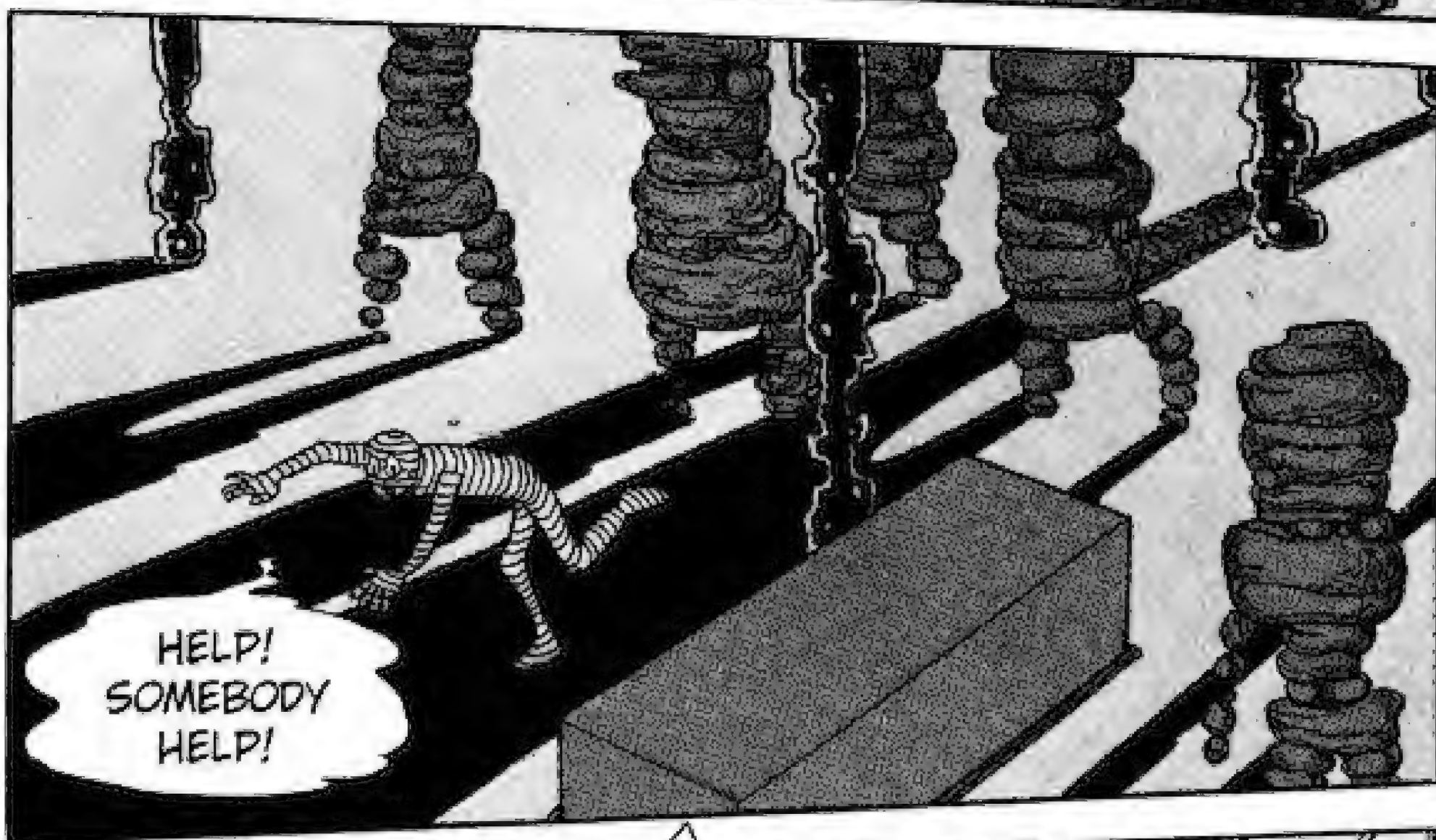
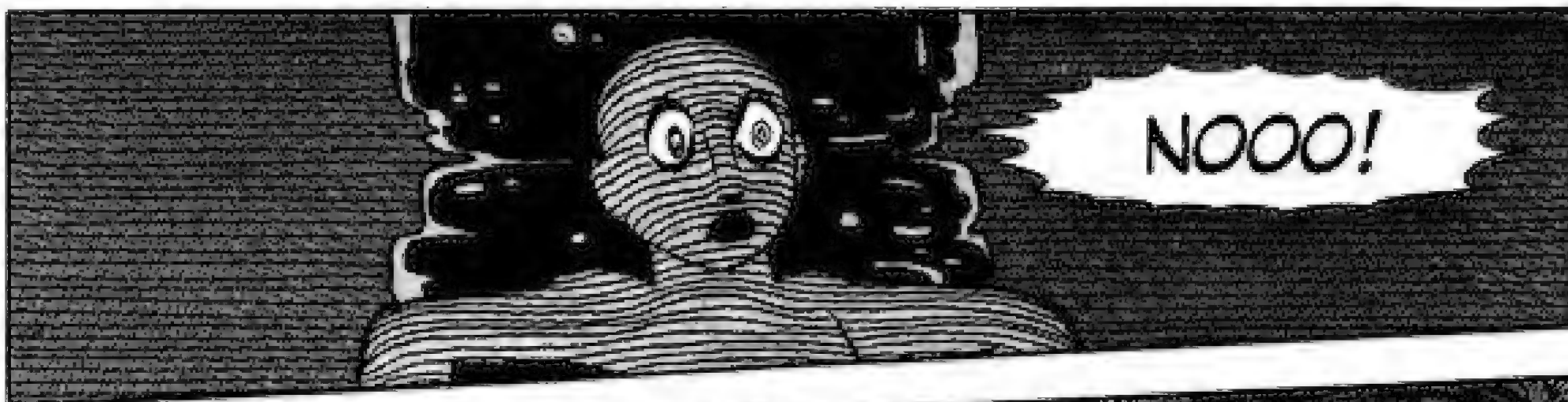
HELP!

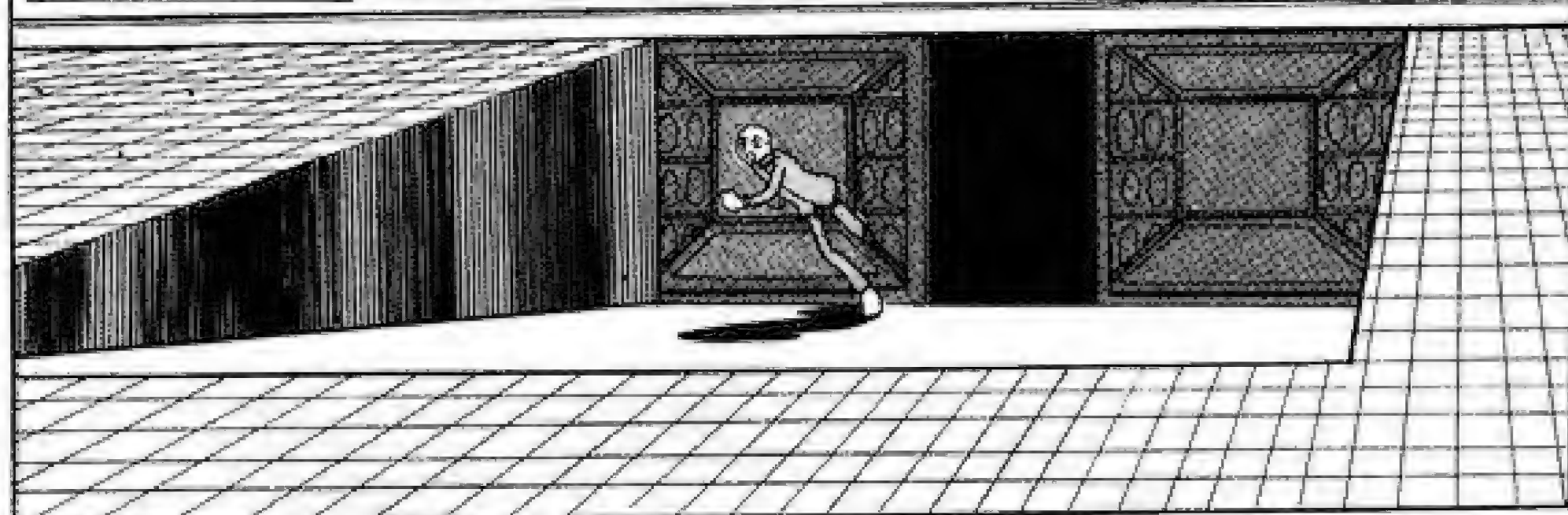
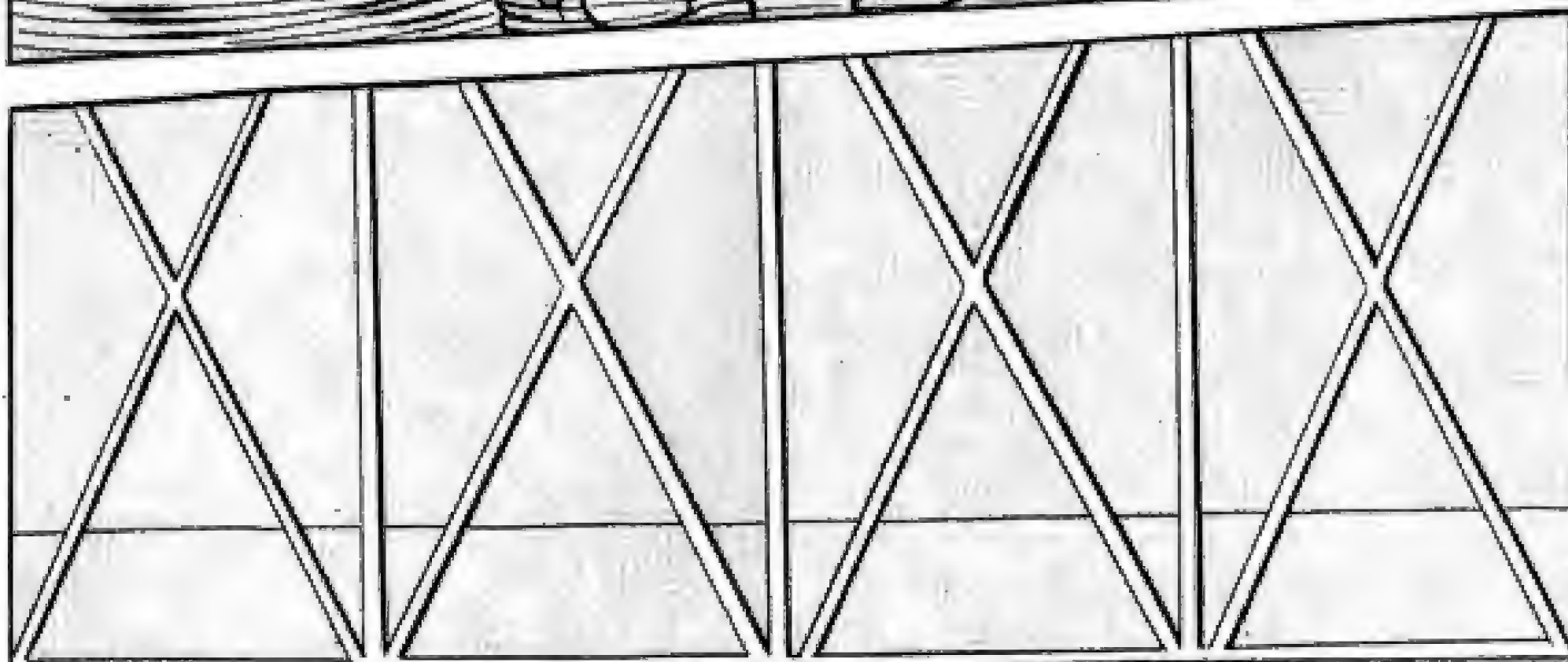


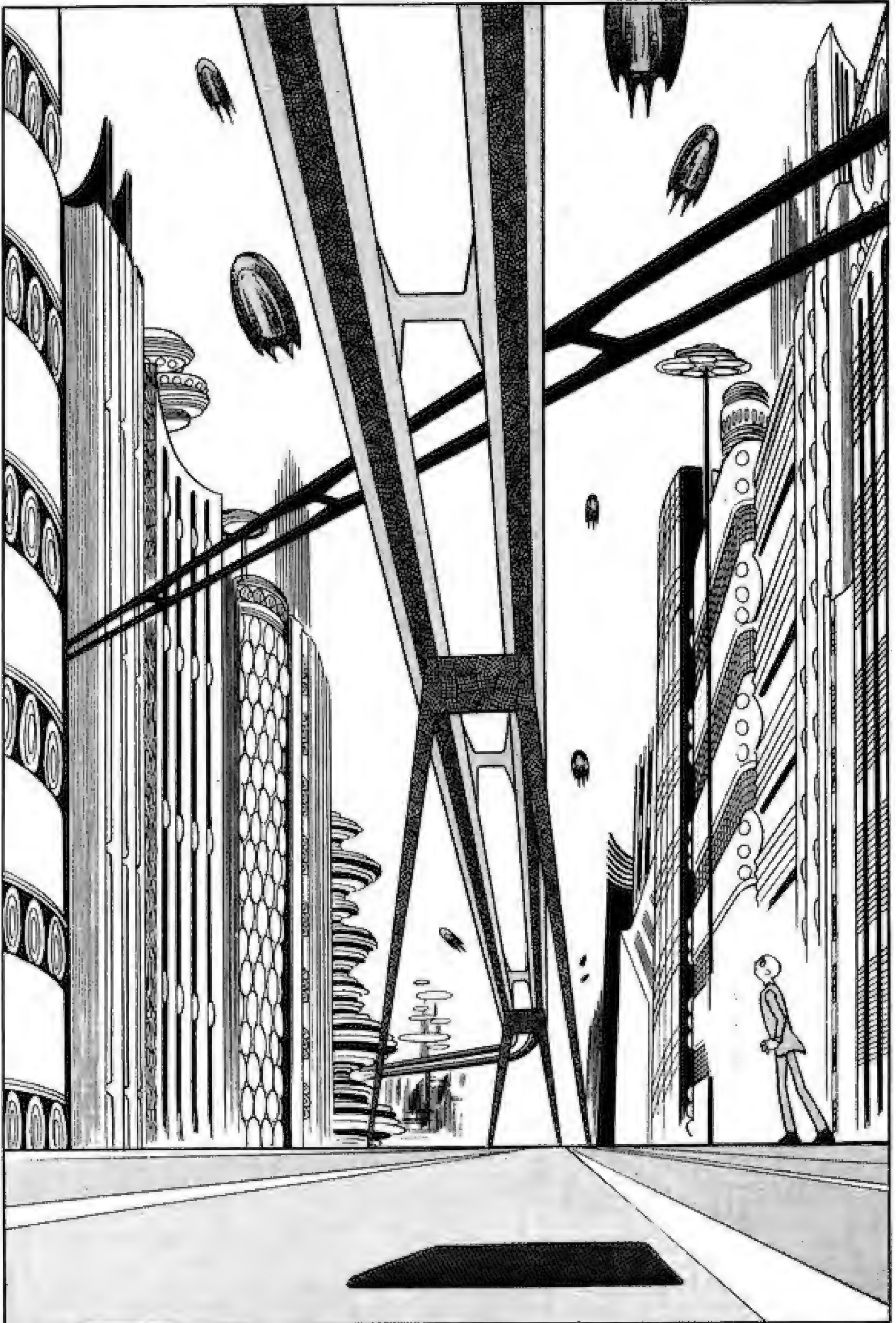
WH... WHERE
IS EVERYONE?!

HELP
ME!











HMM... IT...
IT DOES LOOK
LIKE TOKYO...
BUT WHERE
ARE ALL THE
PEOPLE?

WHERE ARE
ALL THE
PEOPLE!?



NOW...
NOW I
REMEMBER!

THIS IS
WHERE I FELL
OUT OF MY
AIR CAR!...



THERE'S EVEN
A MARK
WHERE I
HIT THE
PAVEMENT.



THAT'S RIGHT
LEON. YOU WERE
BROUGHT TO
THE CENTER
WHERE WE PUT
YOU BACK
TOGETHER AND
GAVE YOU
NEW LIFE!



WE HAD TO
REPAIR YOUR
BRAIN, TOO.
THAT'S WHY
YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
HAIR NOW.



THEN YOU TELL
ME WHAT'S
GOING ON?!
WHAT ARE YOU?!
A ROBOT OR
A LIVING
CREATURE?!

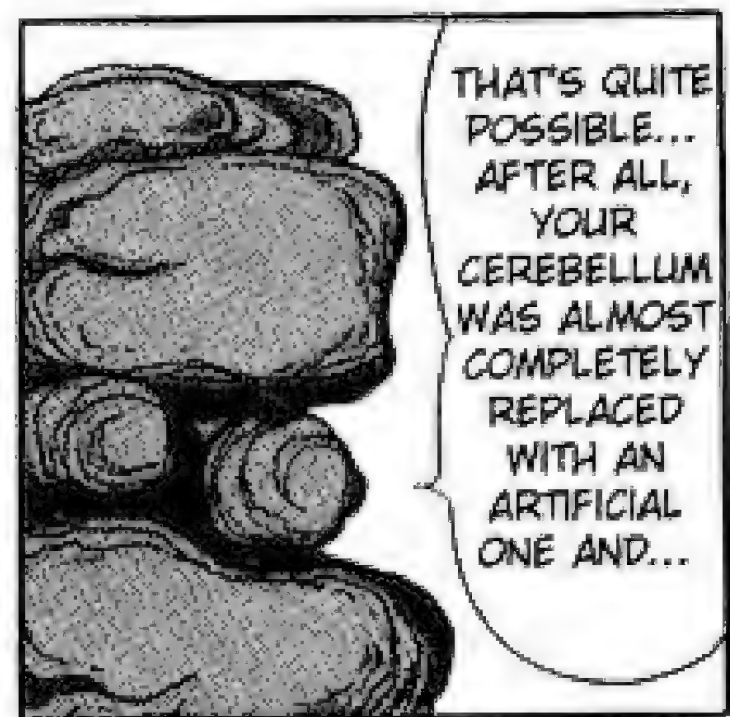
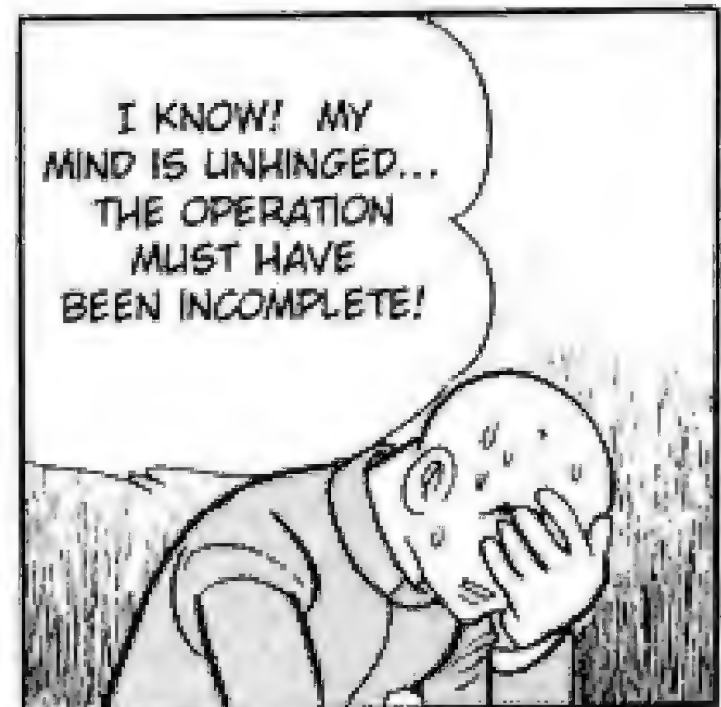
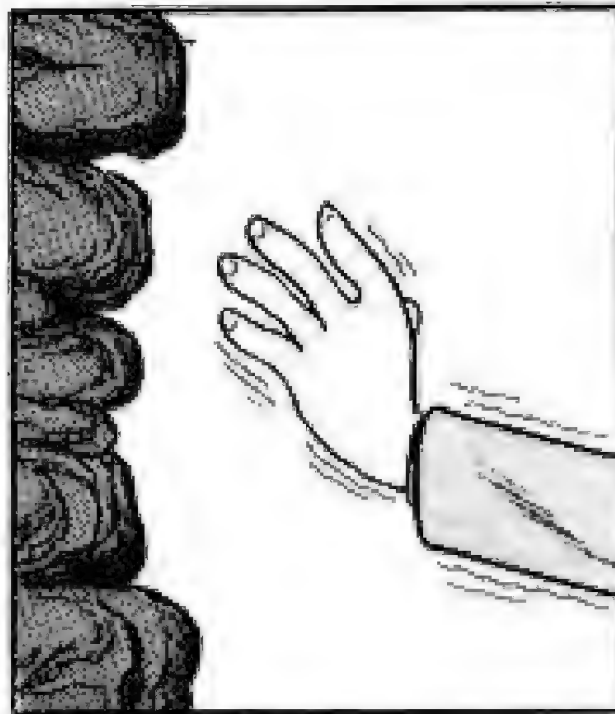
"ROBOT"?
YOU MUST
BE JOKING.

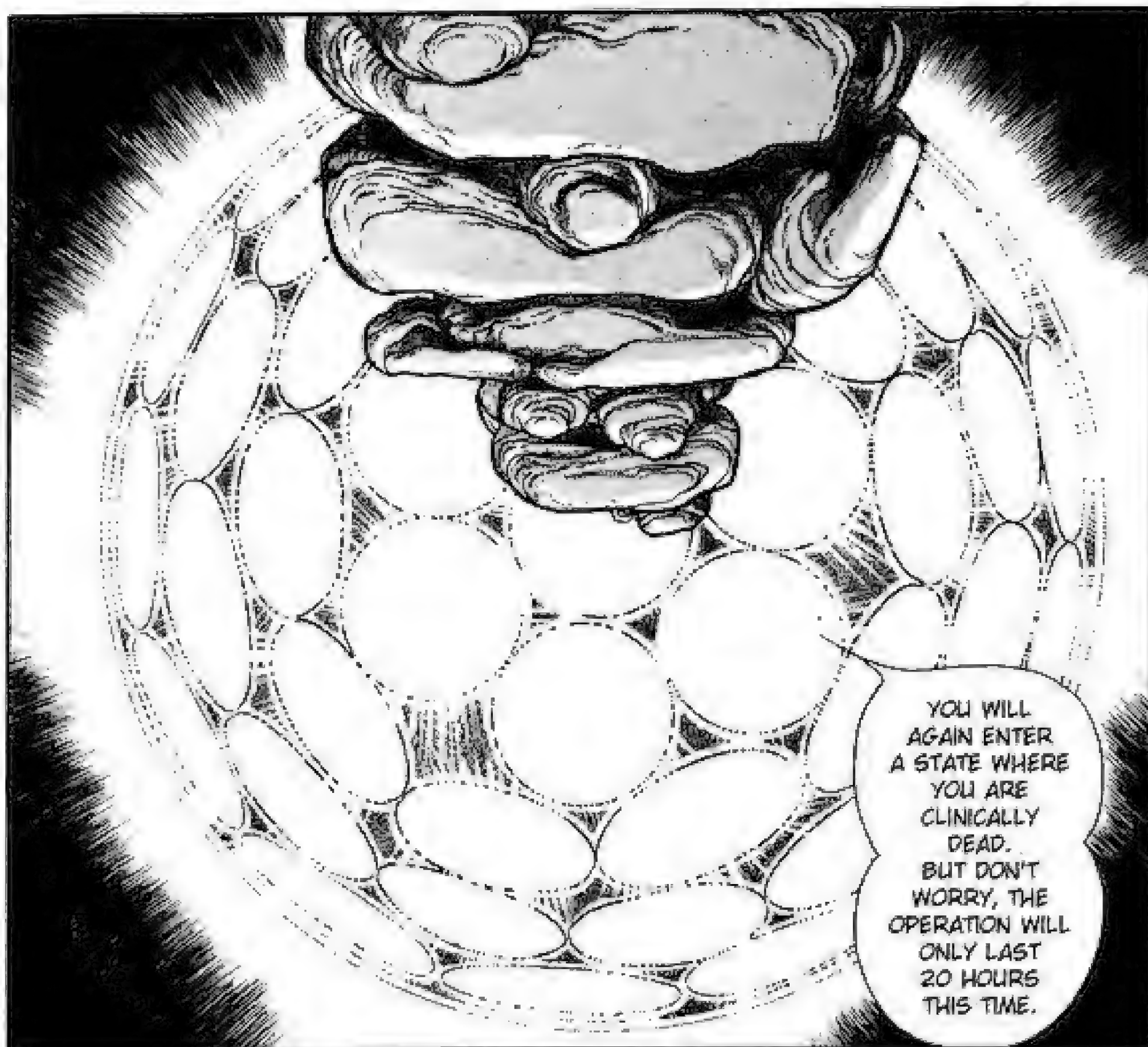


LOOK AT
ME, SON.
I'M DOCTOR
NIELSON,
THE CHIEF
PHYSICIAN
IN CHARGE
OF YOUR
CASE.

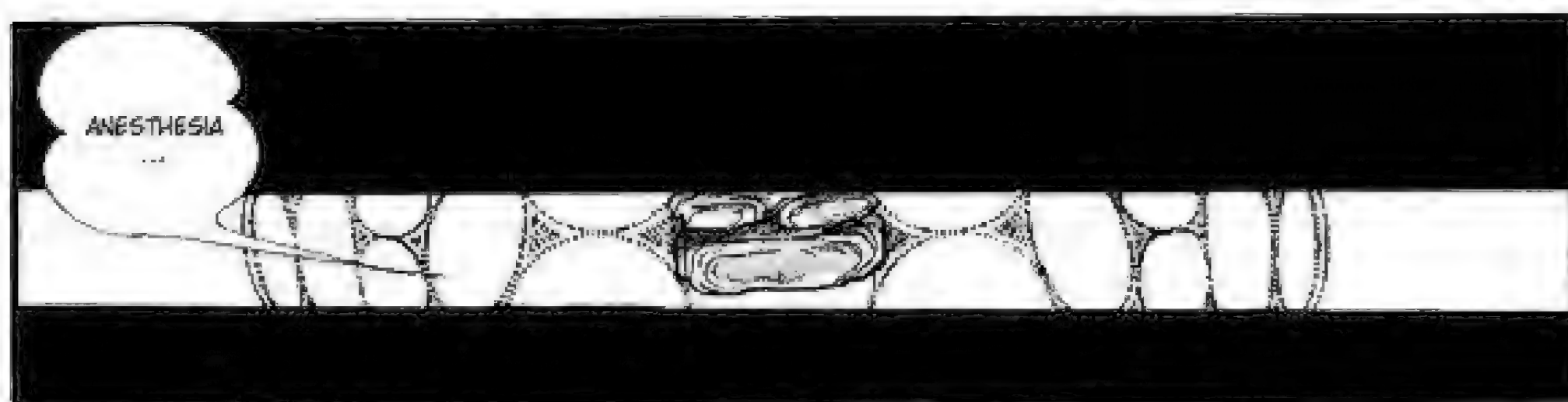
WHY ARE
YOU SO
AFRAID OF
ME?

BUT... BUT...
YOU LOOK
LIKE...

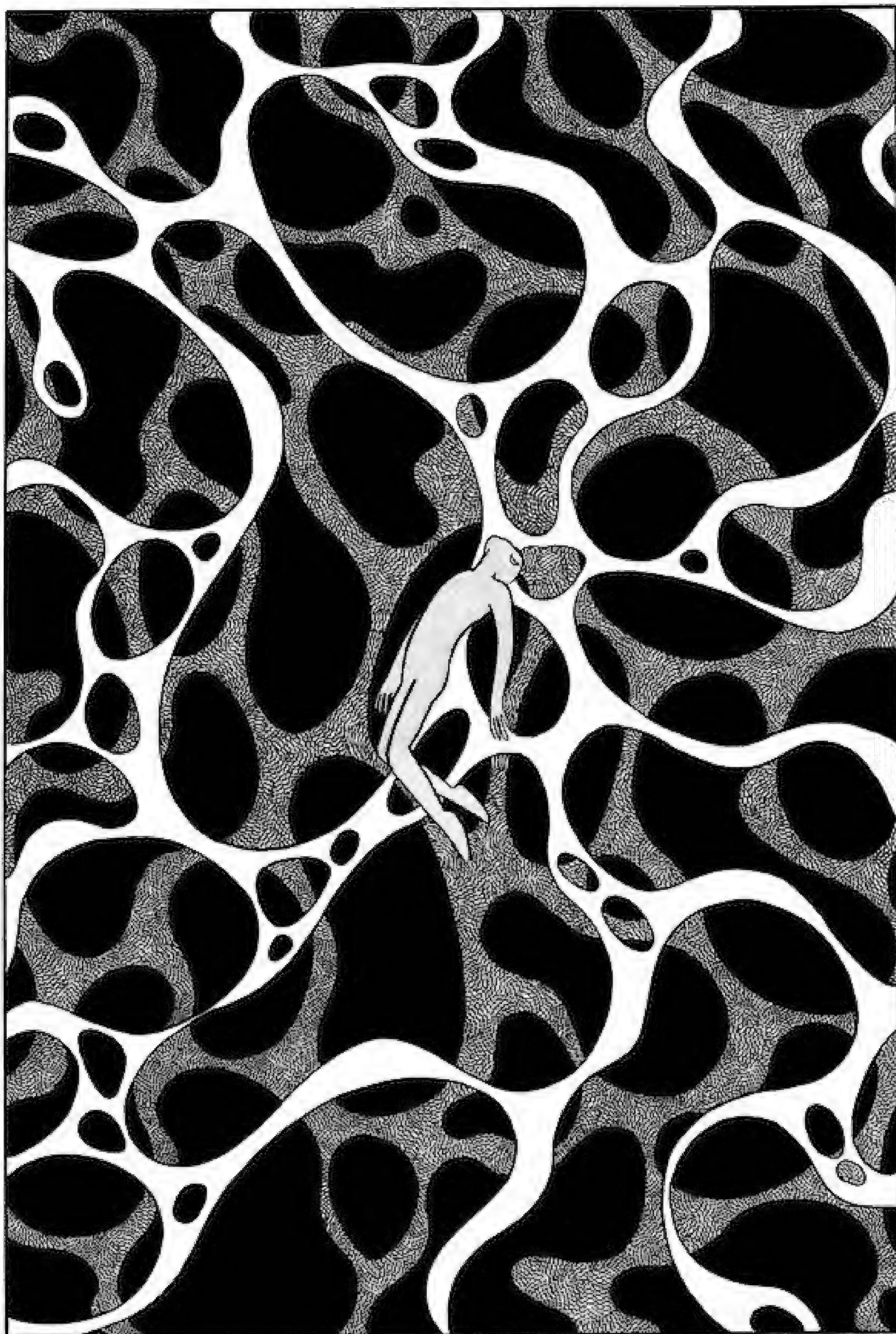




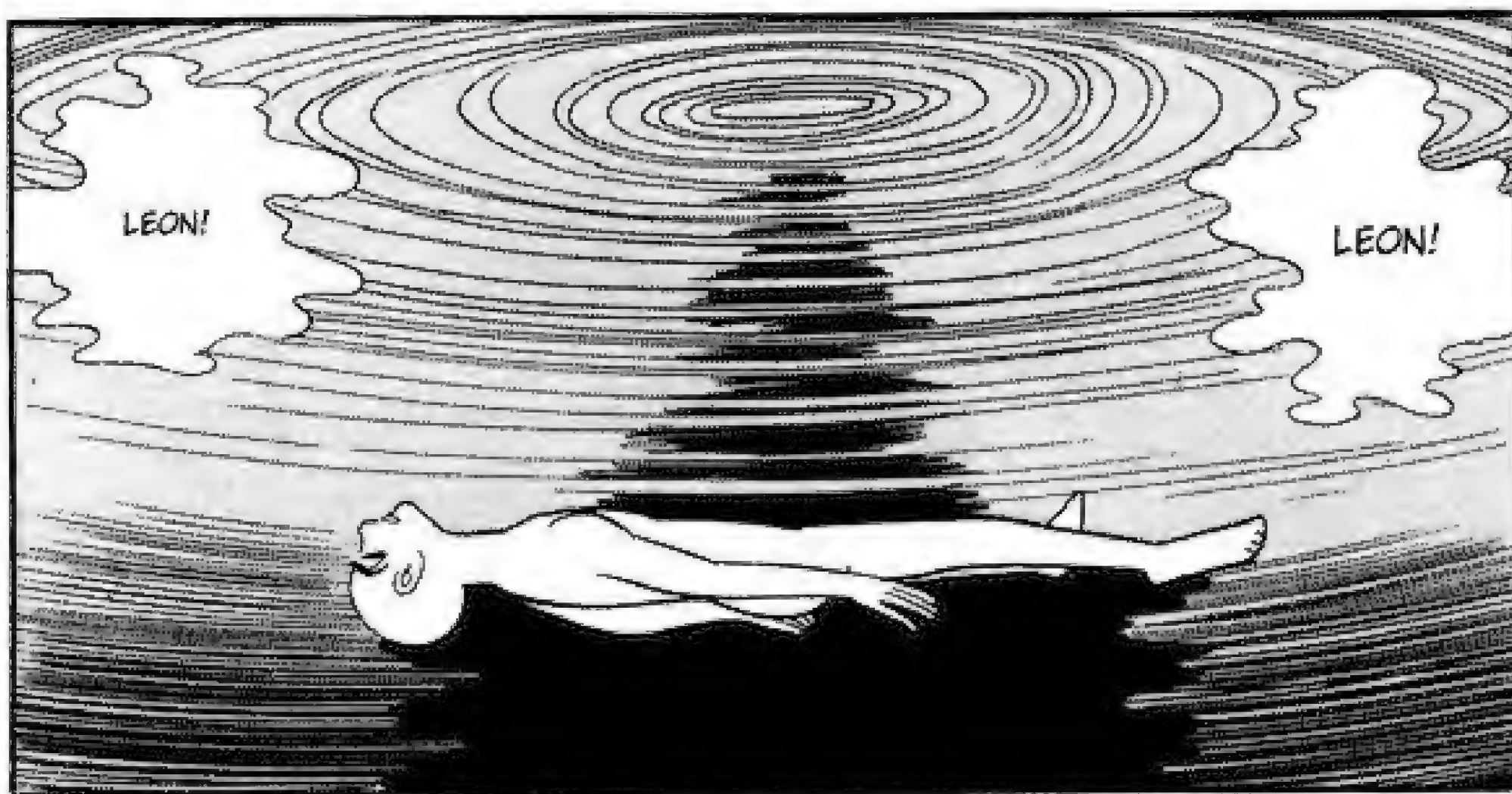
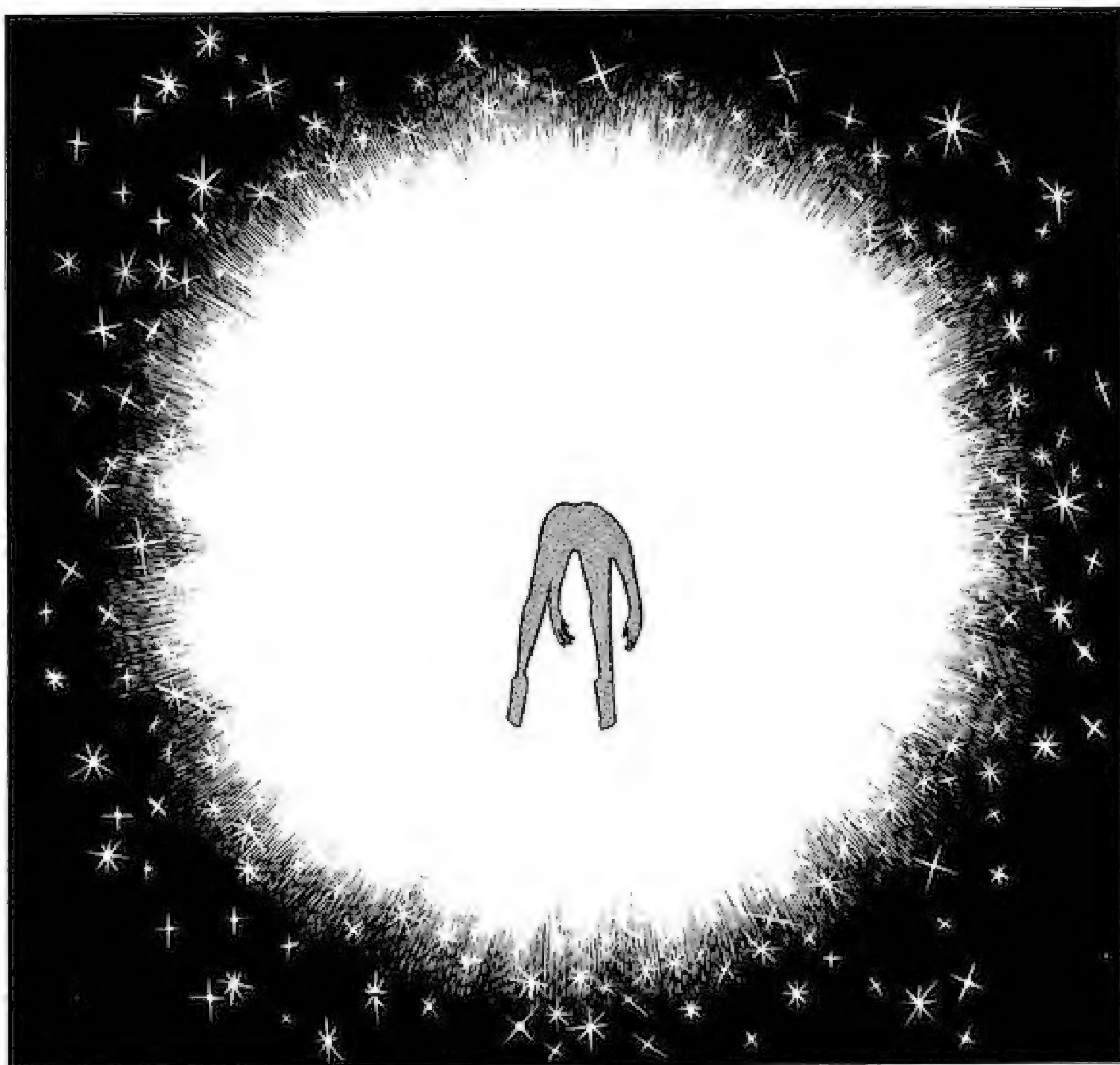
YOU WILL
AGAIN ENTER
A STATE WHERE
YOU ARE
CLINICALLY
DEAD.
BUT DON'T
WORRY, THE
OPERATION WILL
ONLY LAST
20 HOURS
THIS TIME.

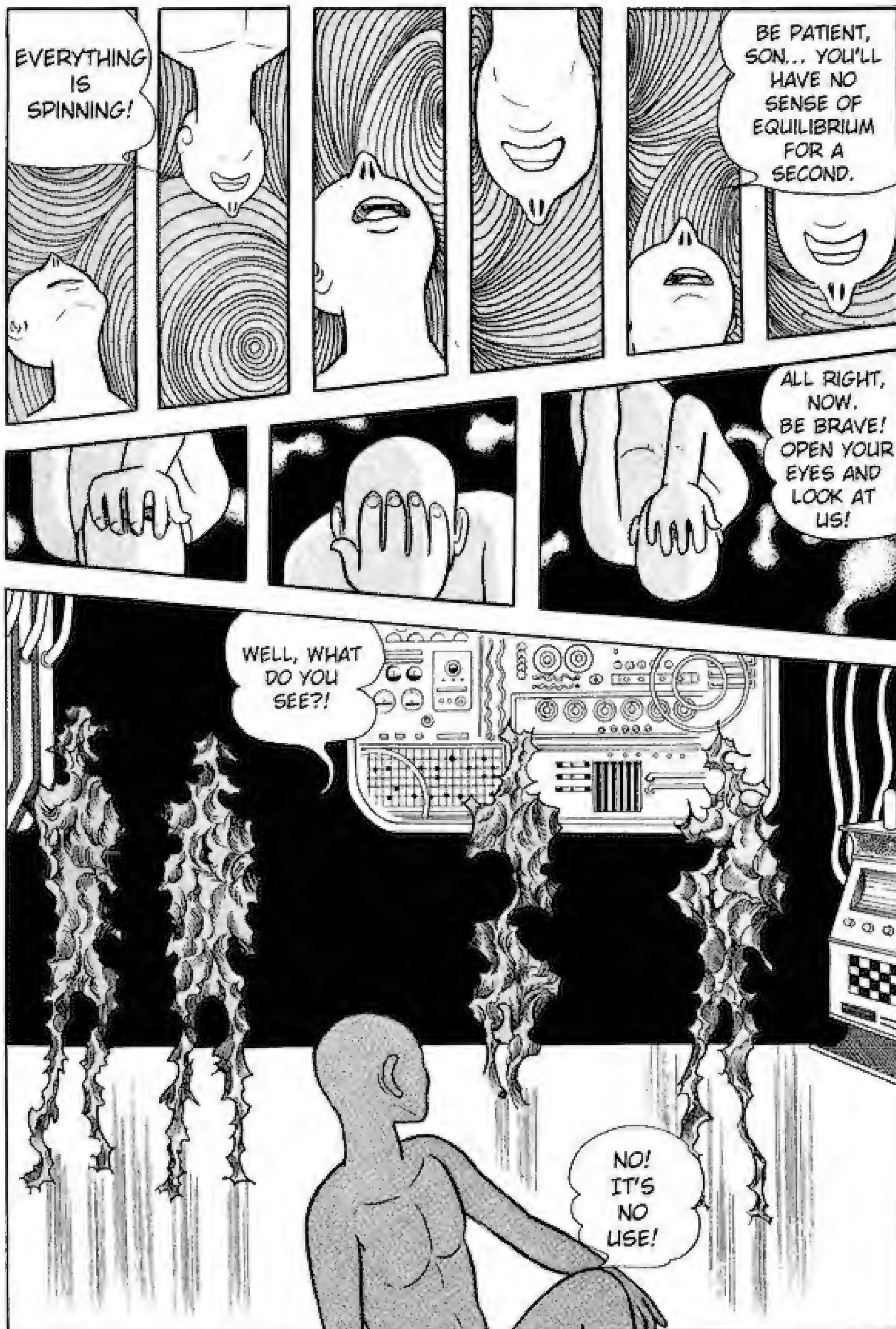


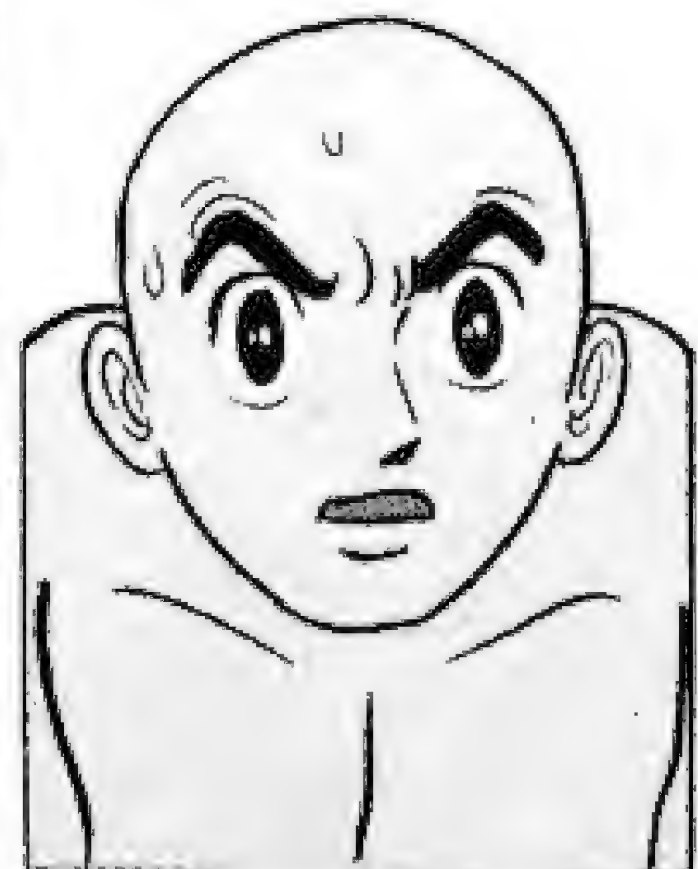
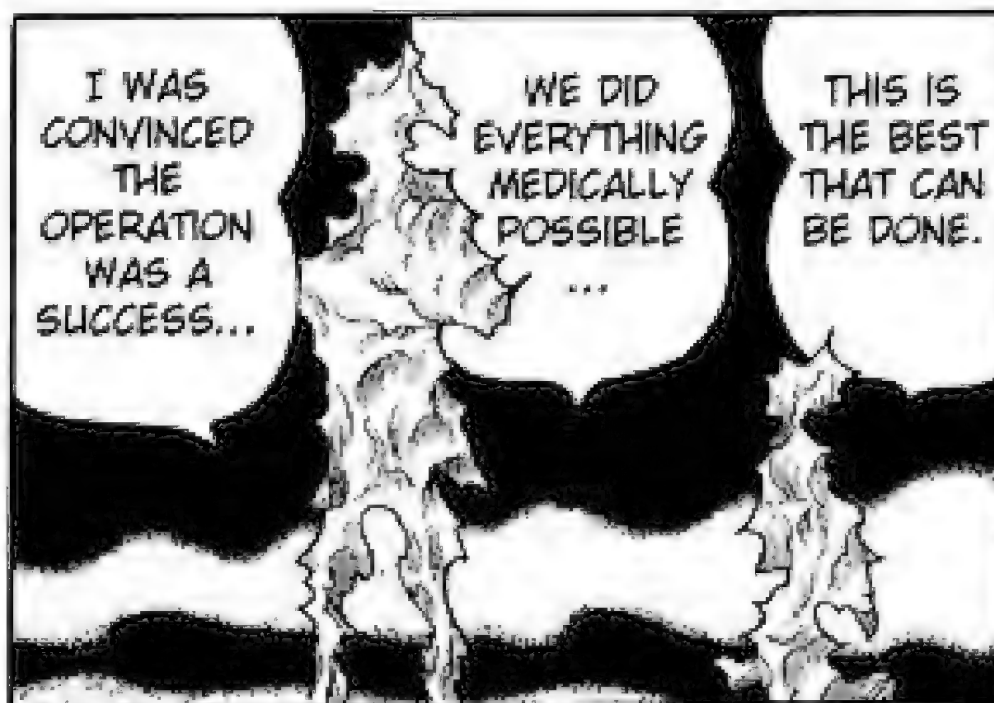
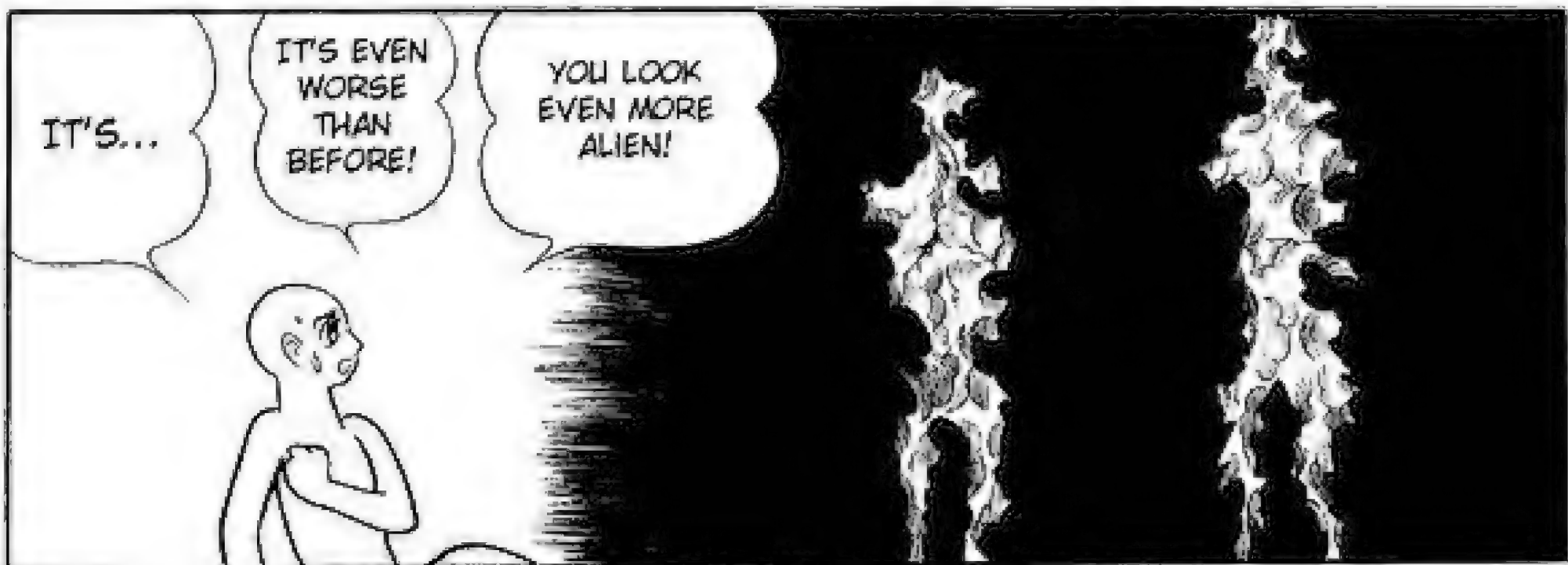
ANESTHESIA

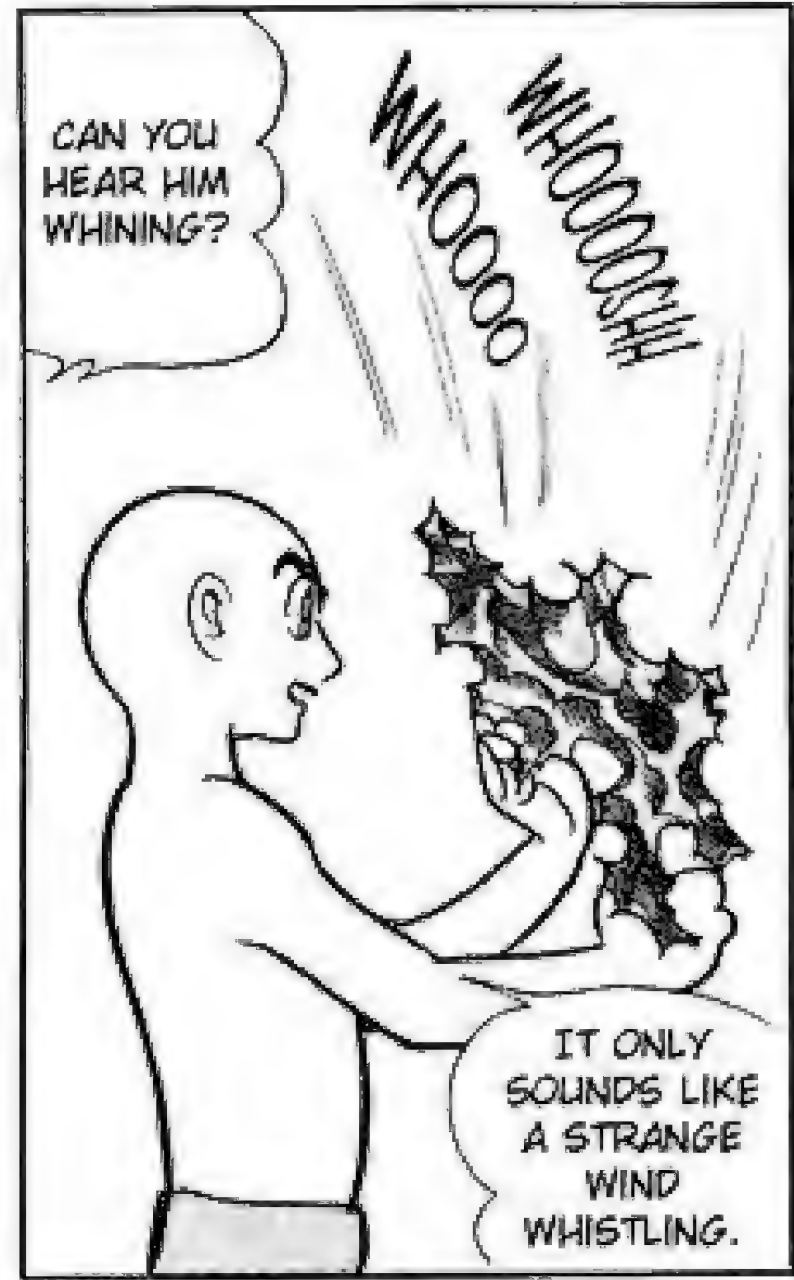
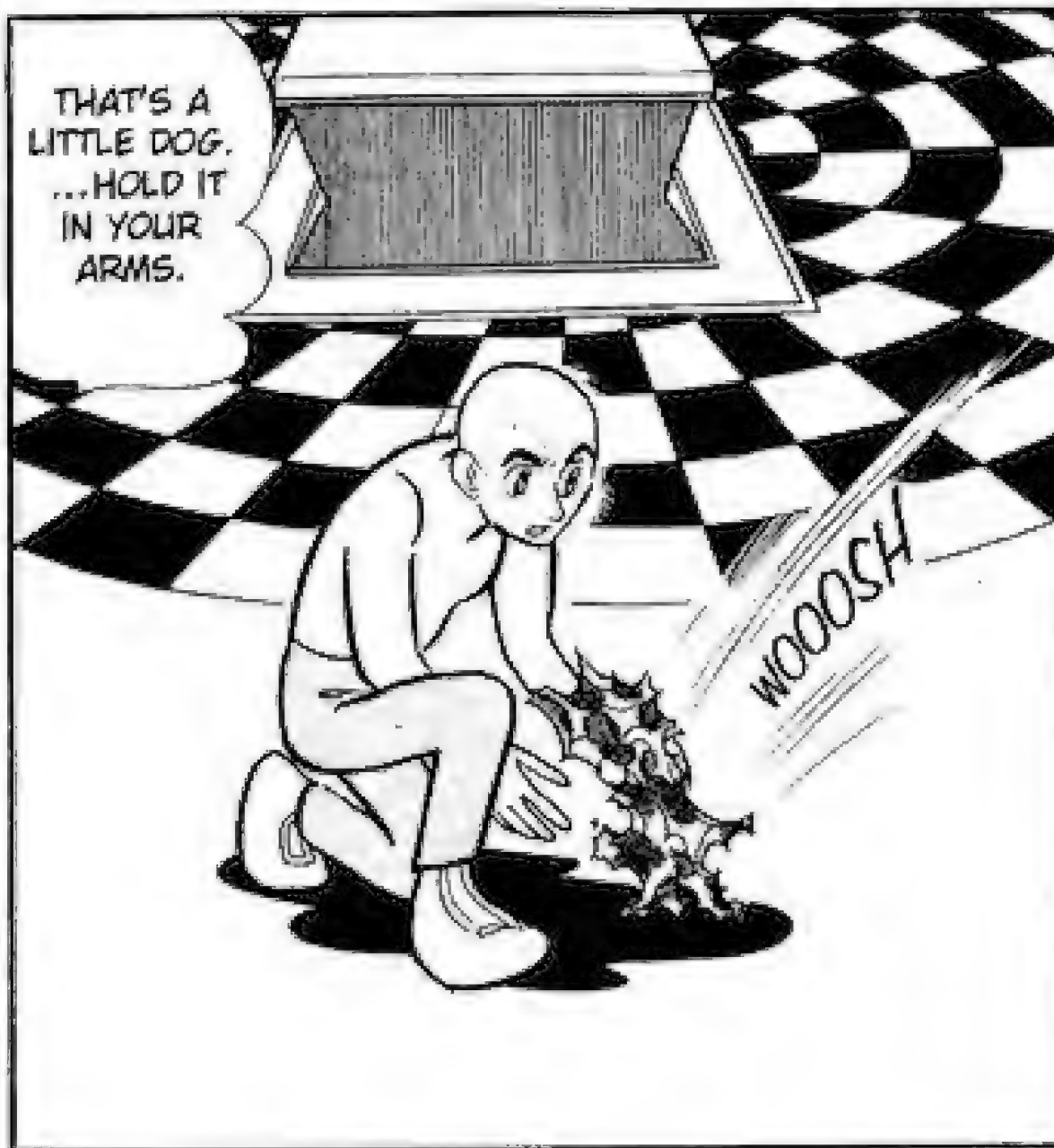






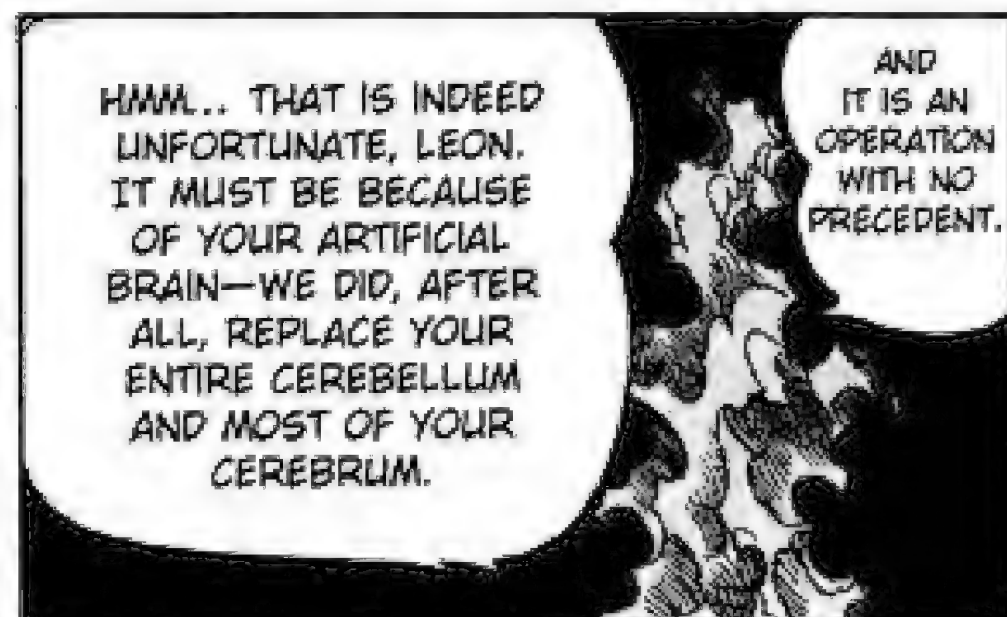








DOG?! HOW CAN
YOU CALL THAT A
DOG?! EVERYTHING
LOOKS LIKE A
JUMBLE...
EVEN YOU!



HMM... THAT IS INDEED
UNFORTUNATE, LEON.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE
OF YOUR ARTIFICIAL
BRAIN—WE DID, AFTER
ALL, REPLACE YOUR
ENTIRE CEREBELLUM
AND MOST OF YOUR
CEREBRUM.

AND
IT IS AN
OPERATION
WITH NO
PRECEDENT.



SO I
WAS
YOUR
GUINEA
PIG,
EH?!

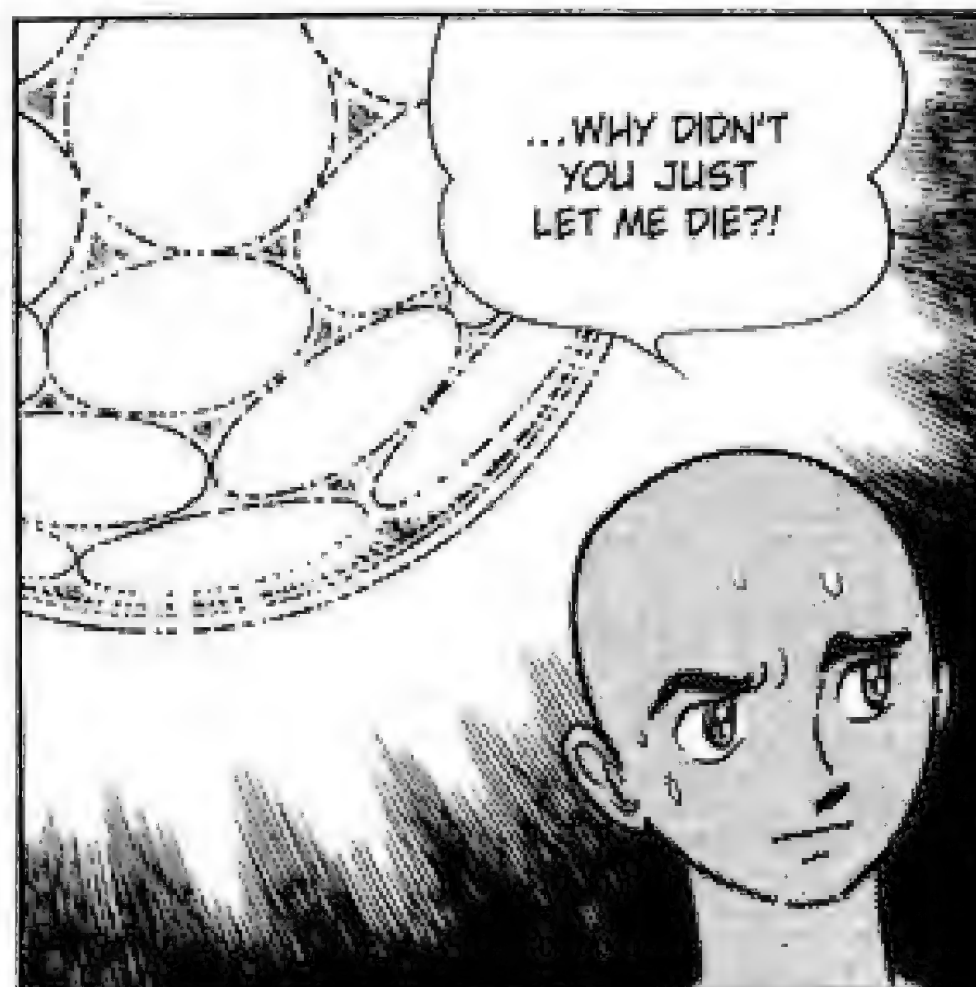
YOU
WERE
COMPLETELY
DEAD,
LEON.

AND IN ORDER
TO RESTORE
YOU TO THE
LIVING, WE HAD
NO CHOICE
BUT TO TRY
SOMETHING
NEW.

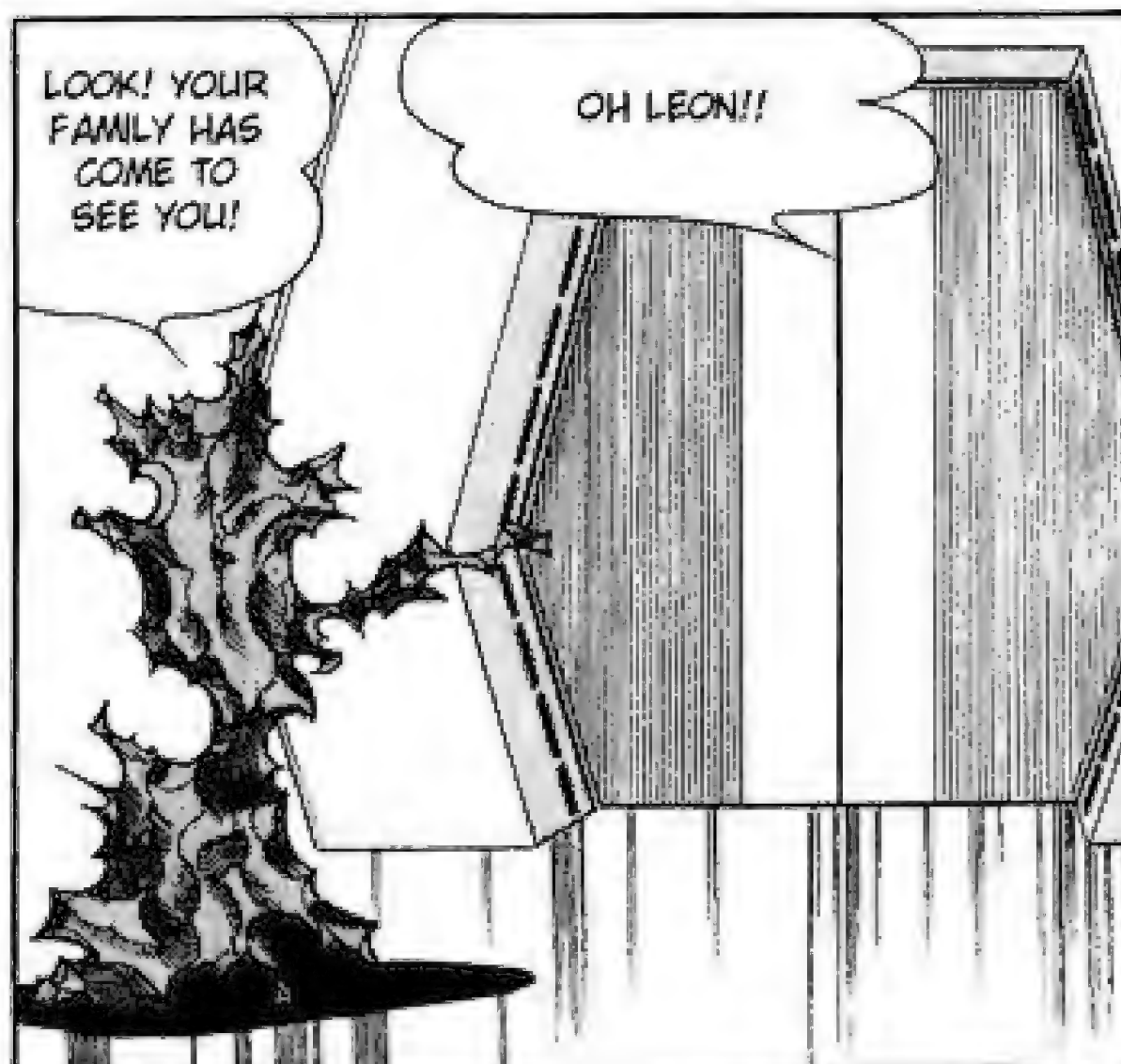
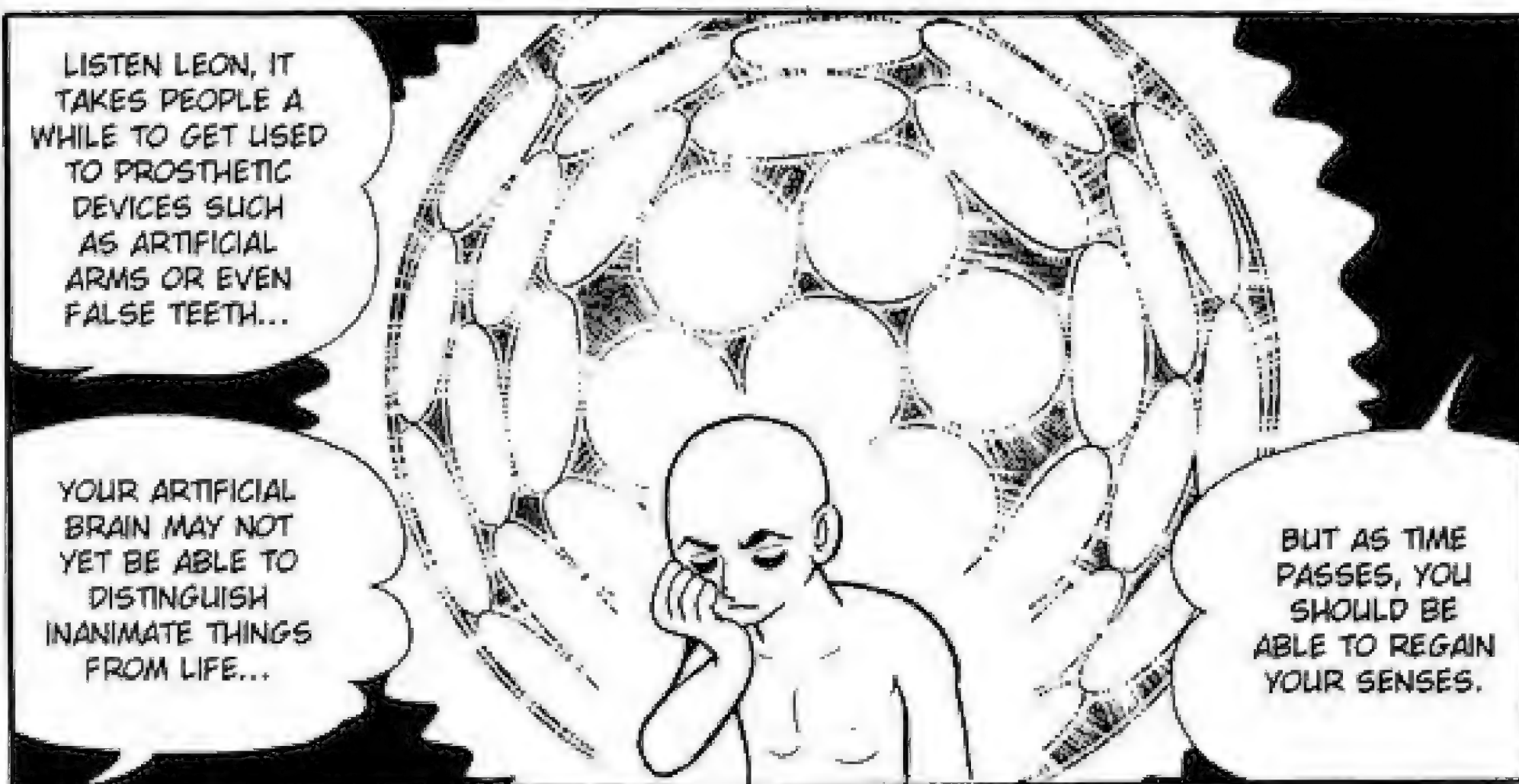


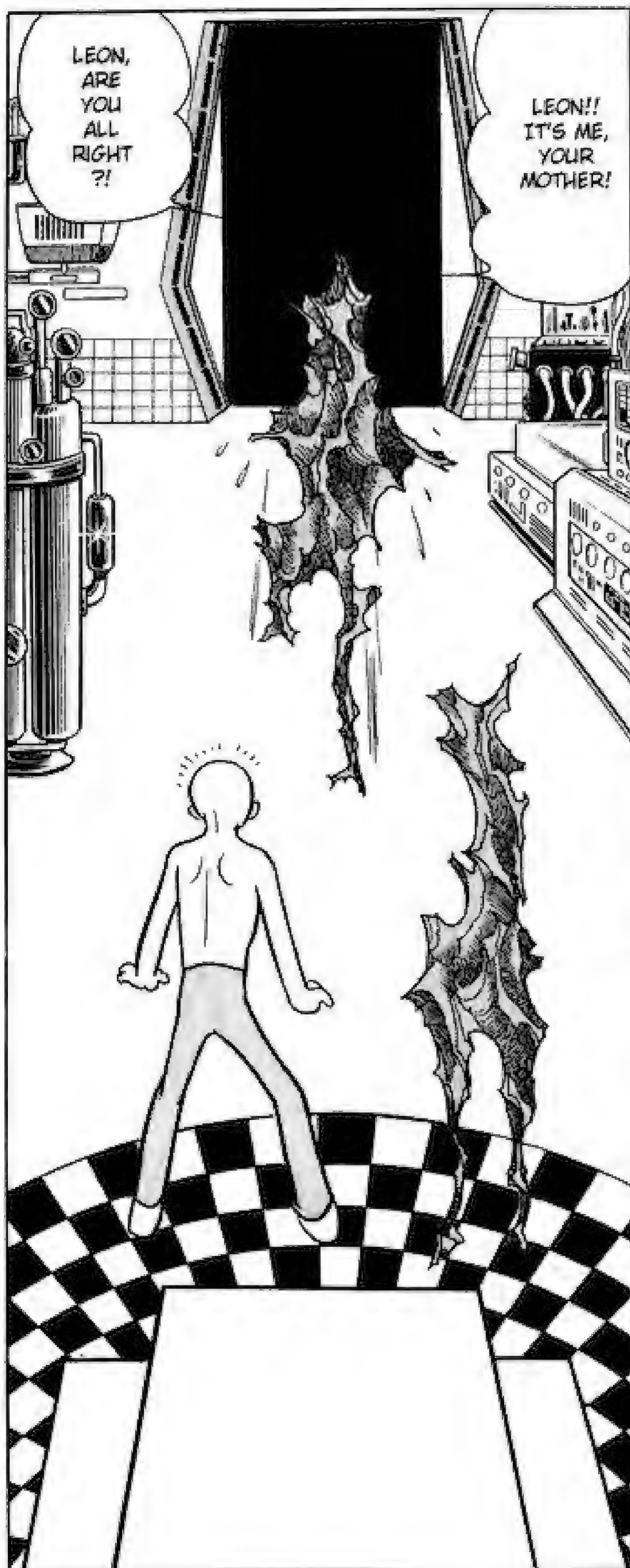
...NATURALLY WE
HAD NO IDEA
WHAT WOULD
HAPPEN.

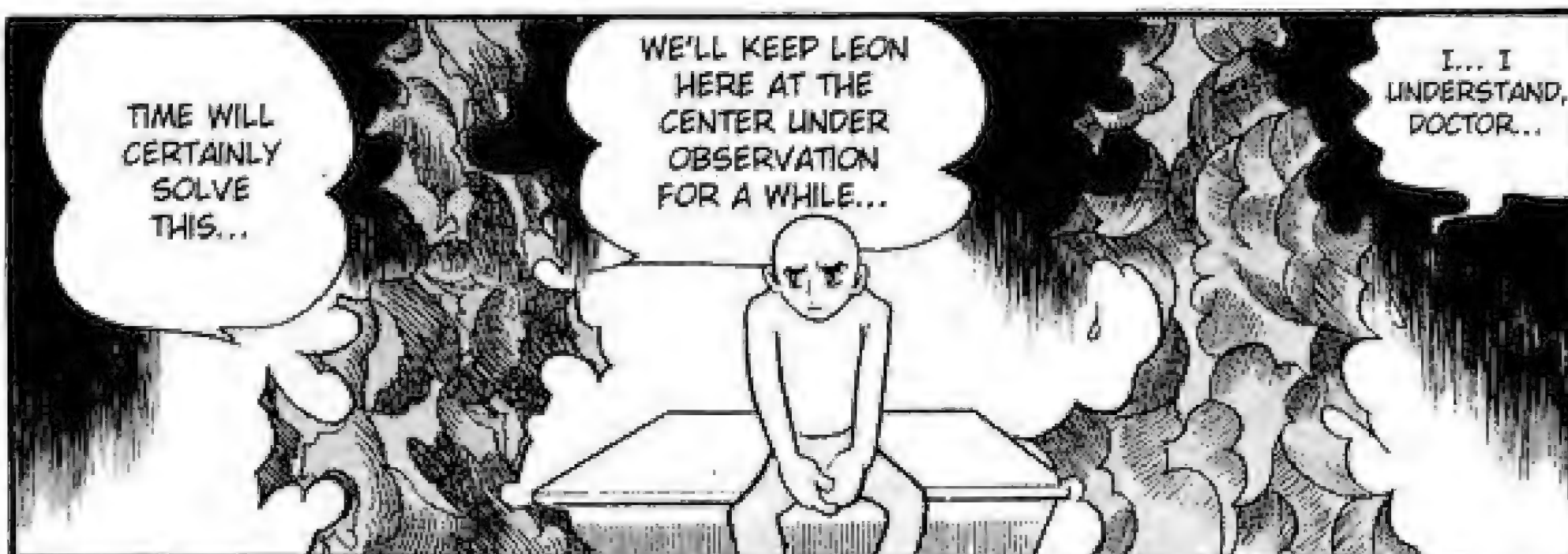
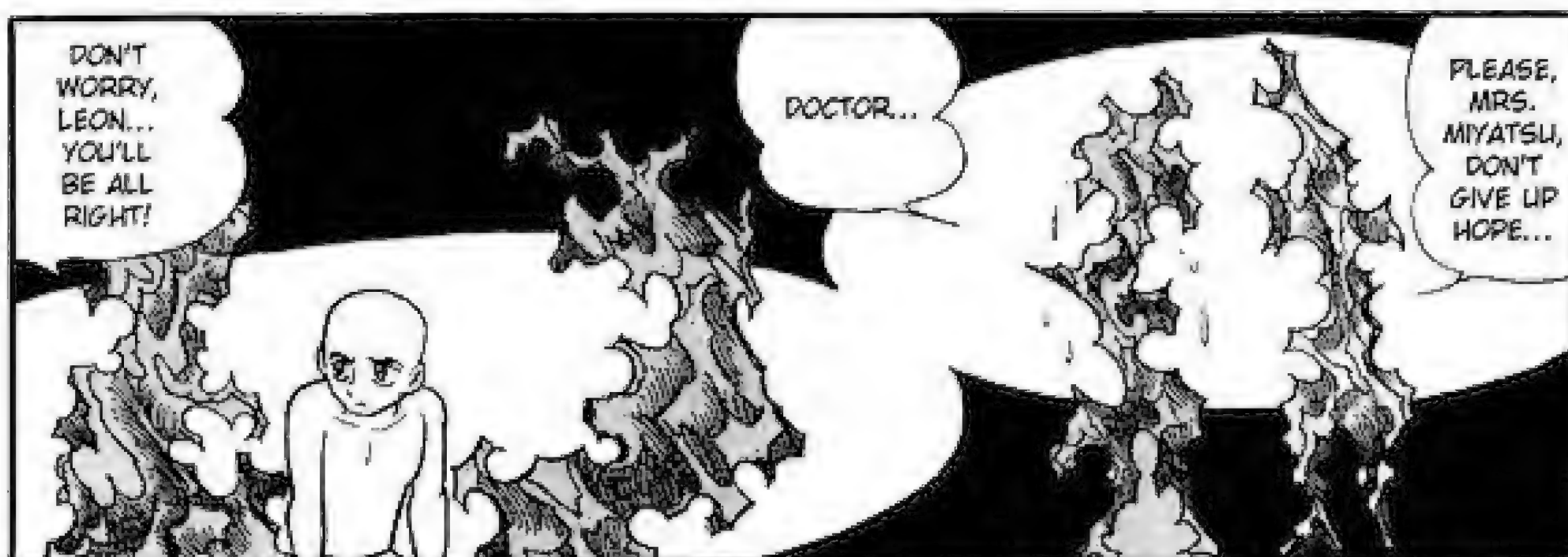
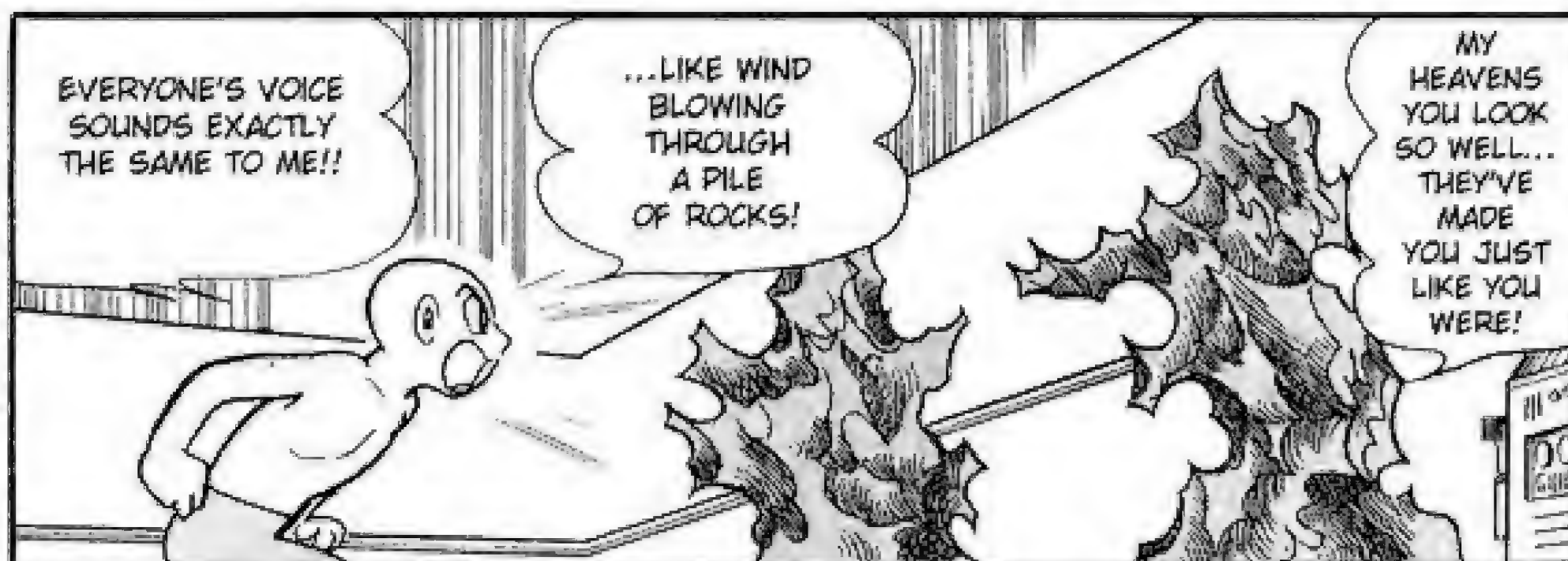
BUT WE
WERE
CONVINCED
THAT WE
COULD
BRING YOU
BACK TO
LIFE!

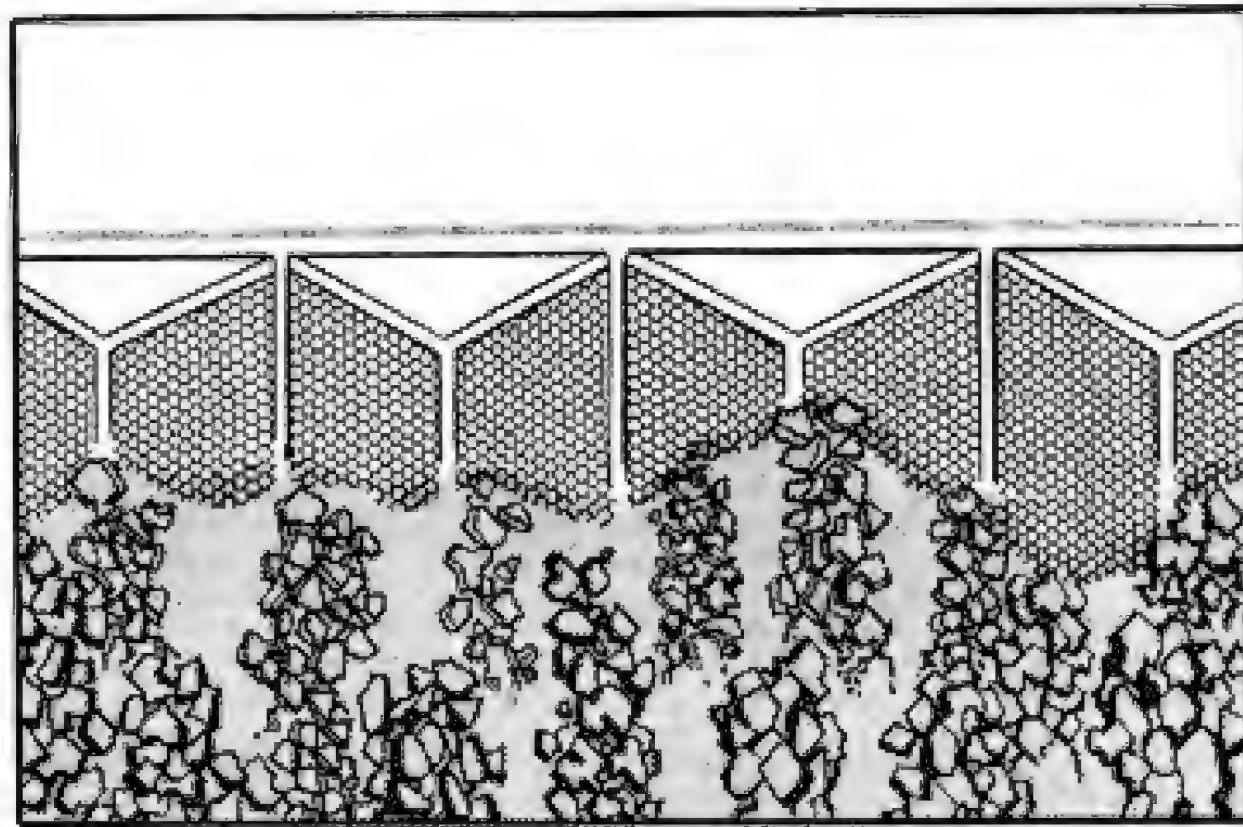
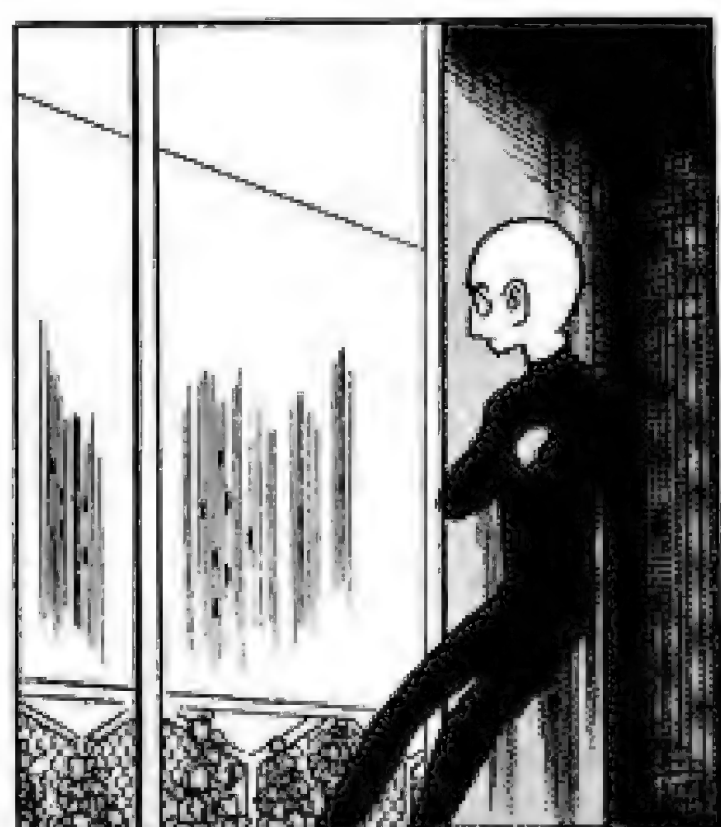
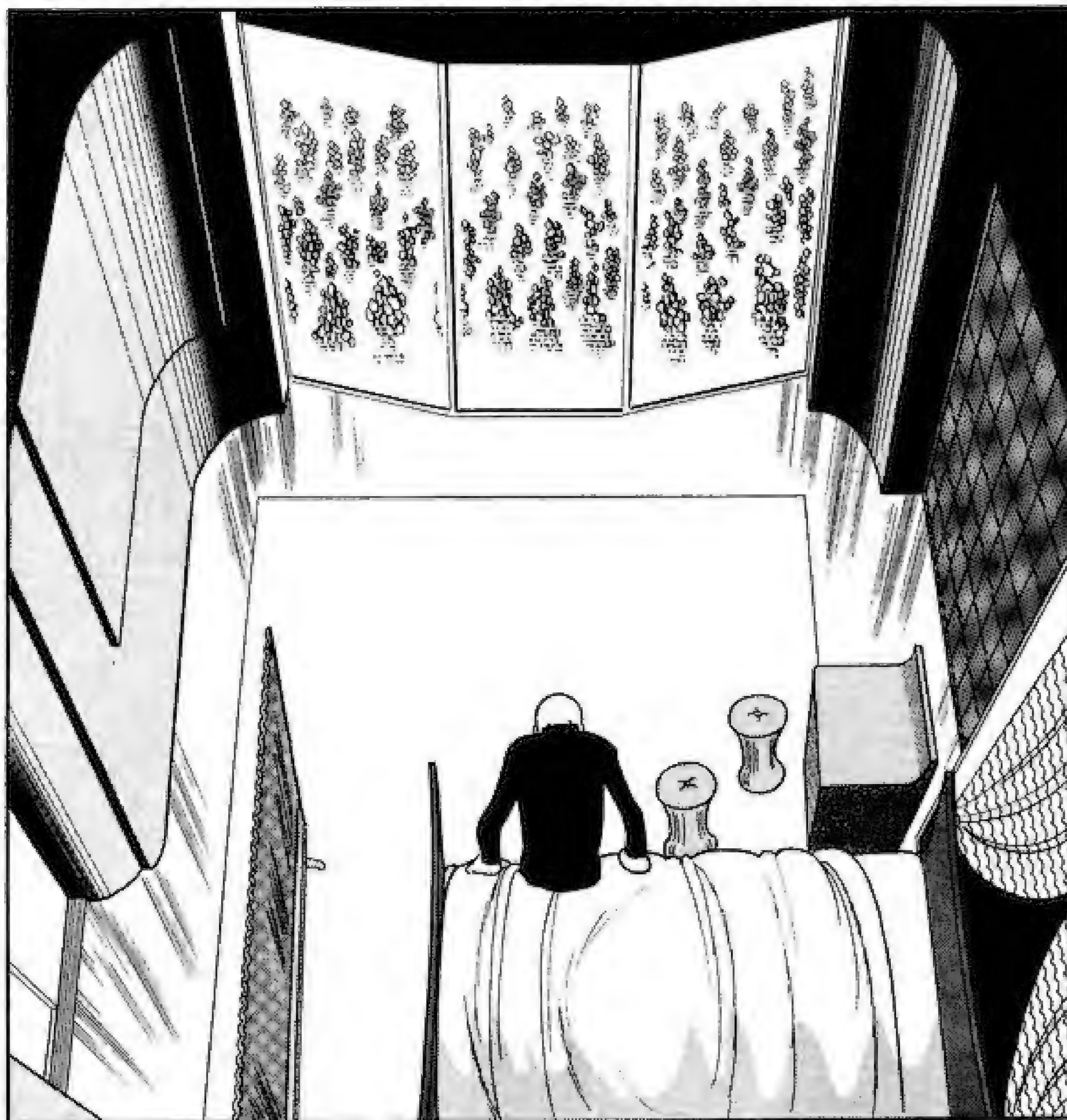


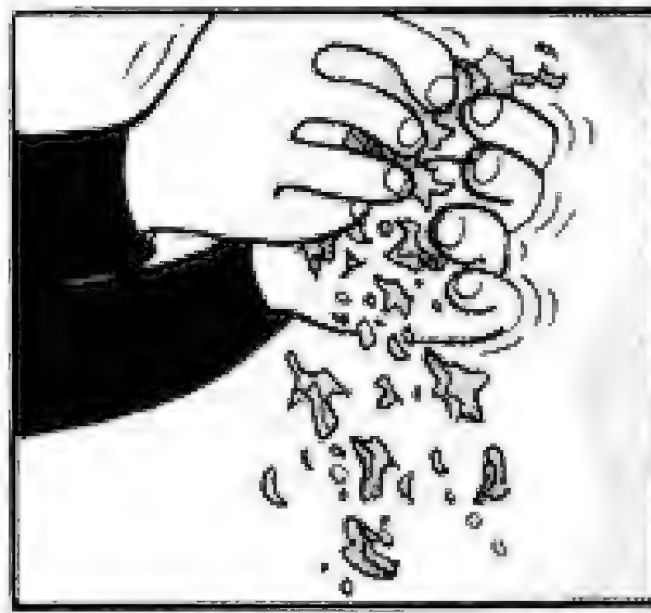
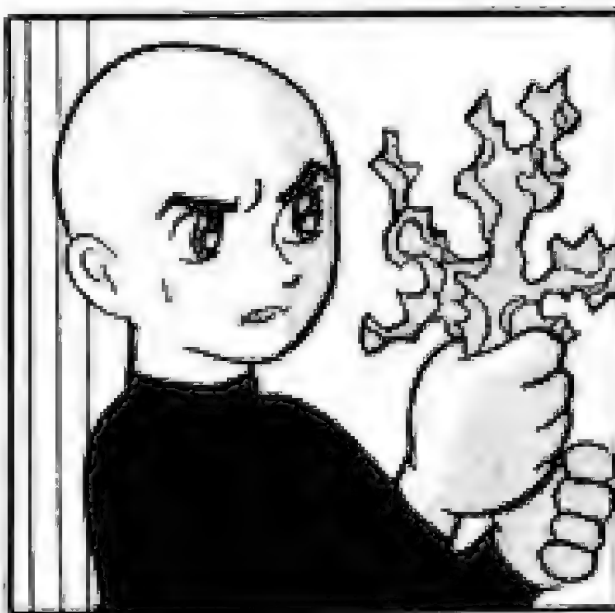
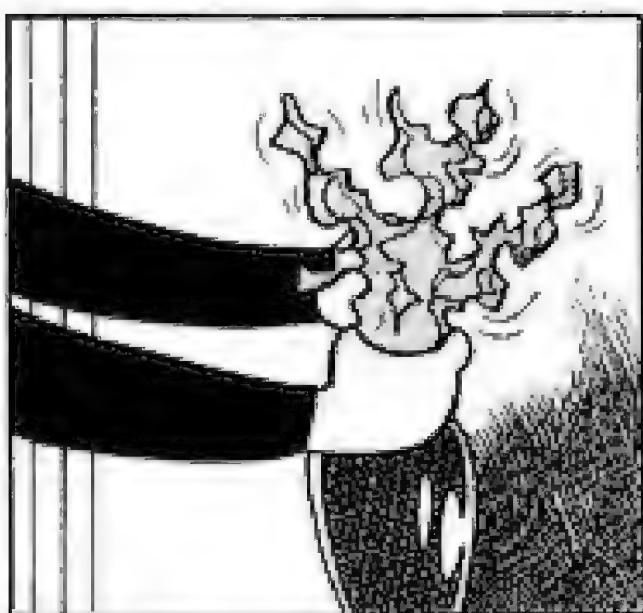
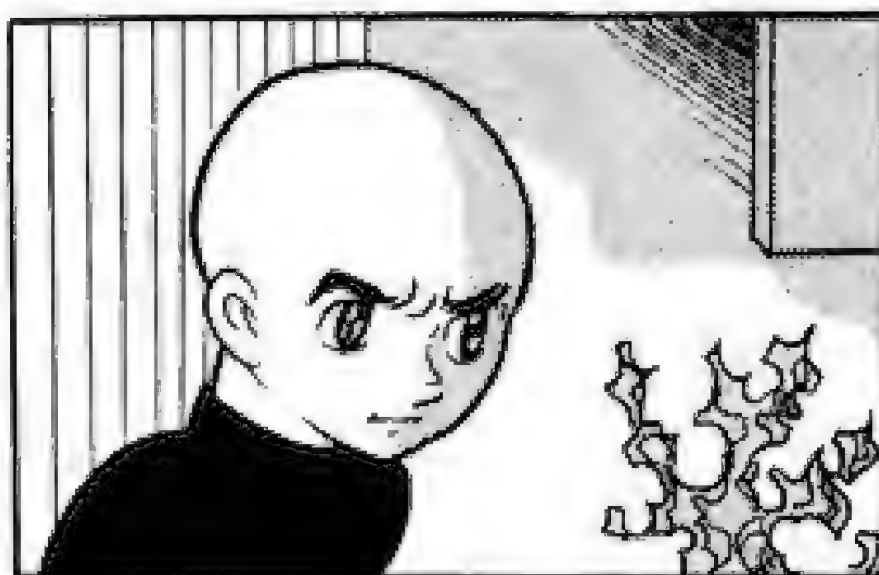
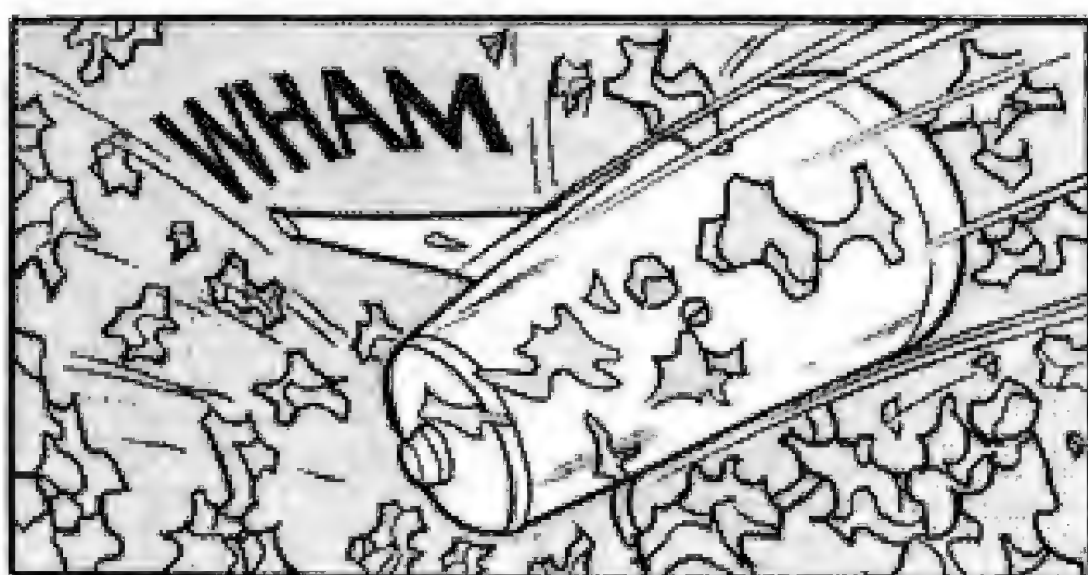
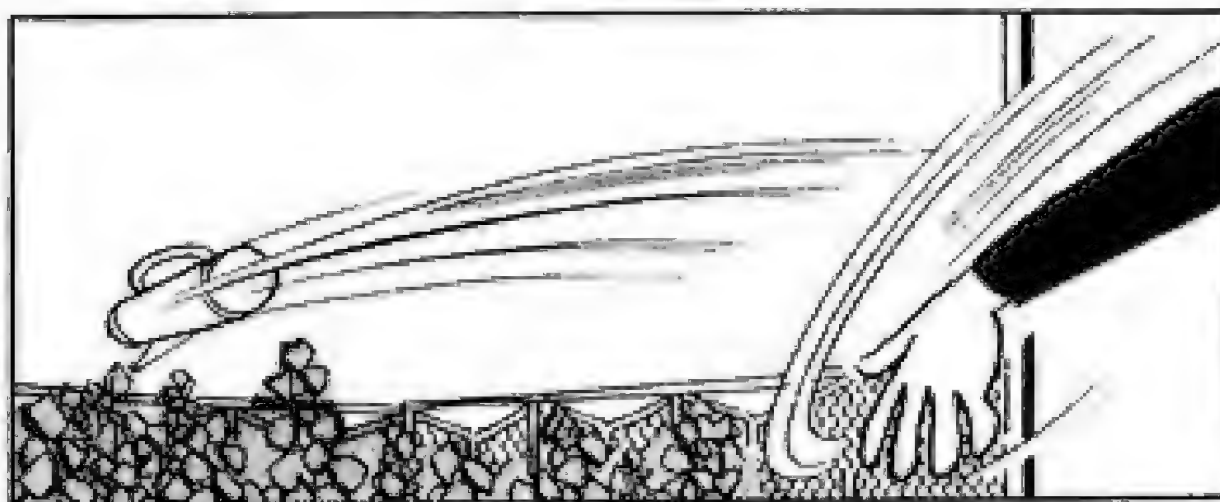
...WHY DIDN'T
YOU JUST
LET ME DIE?!

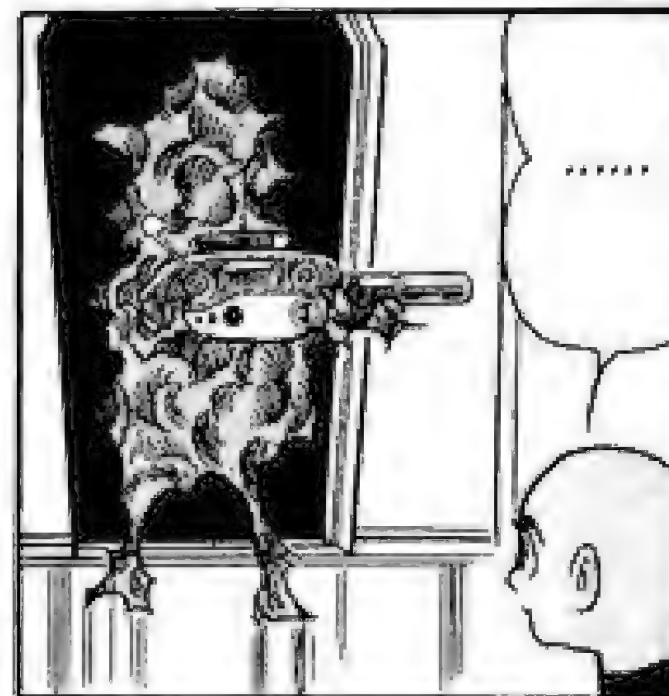
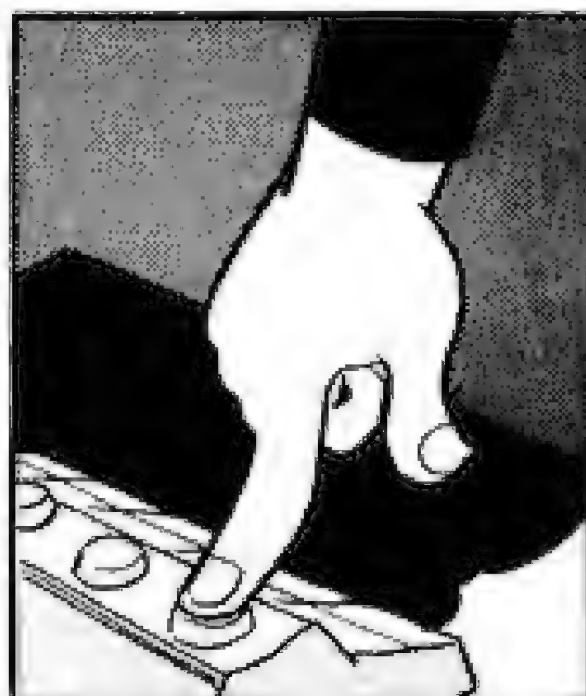
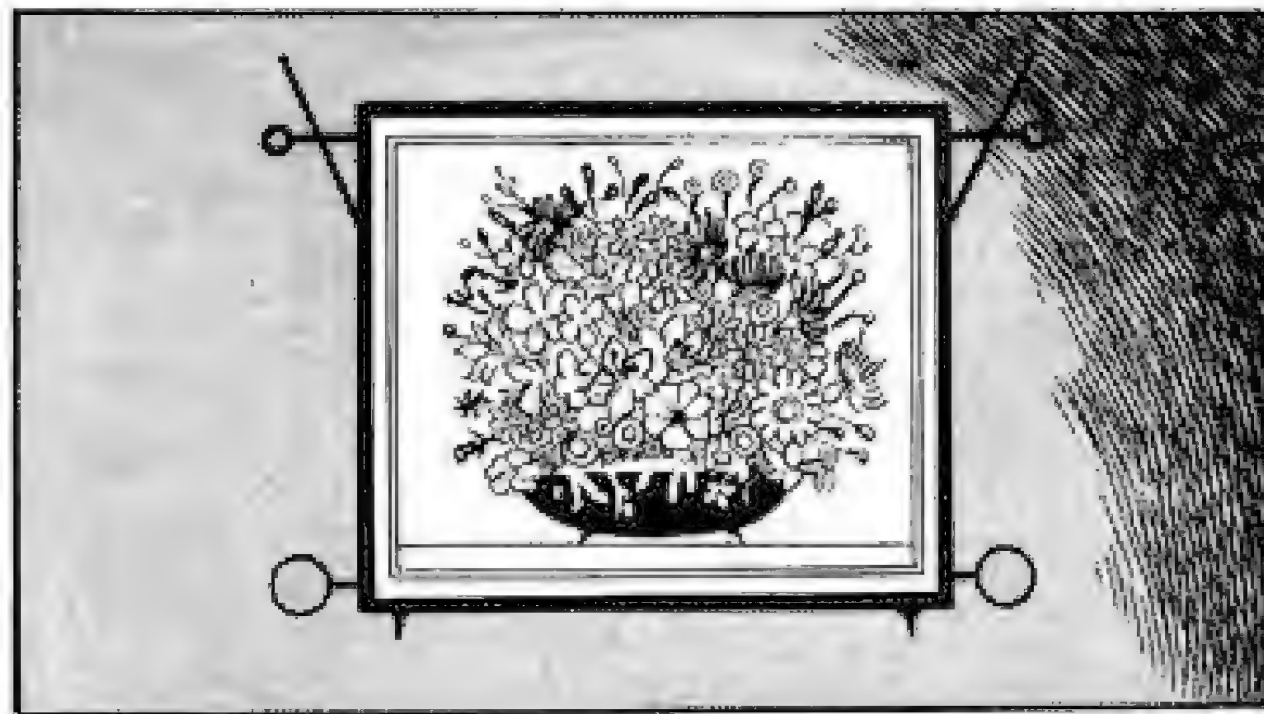


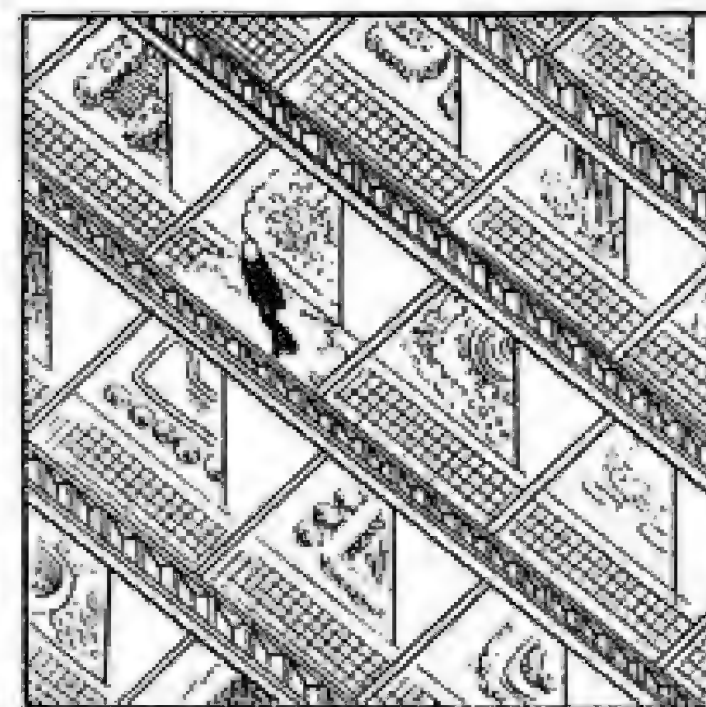
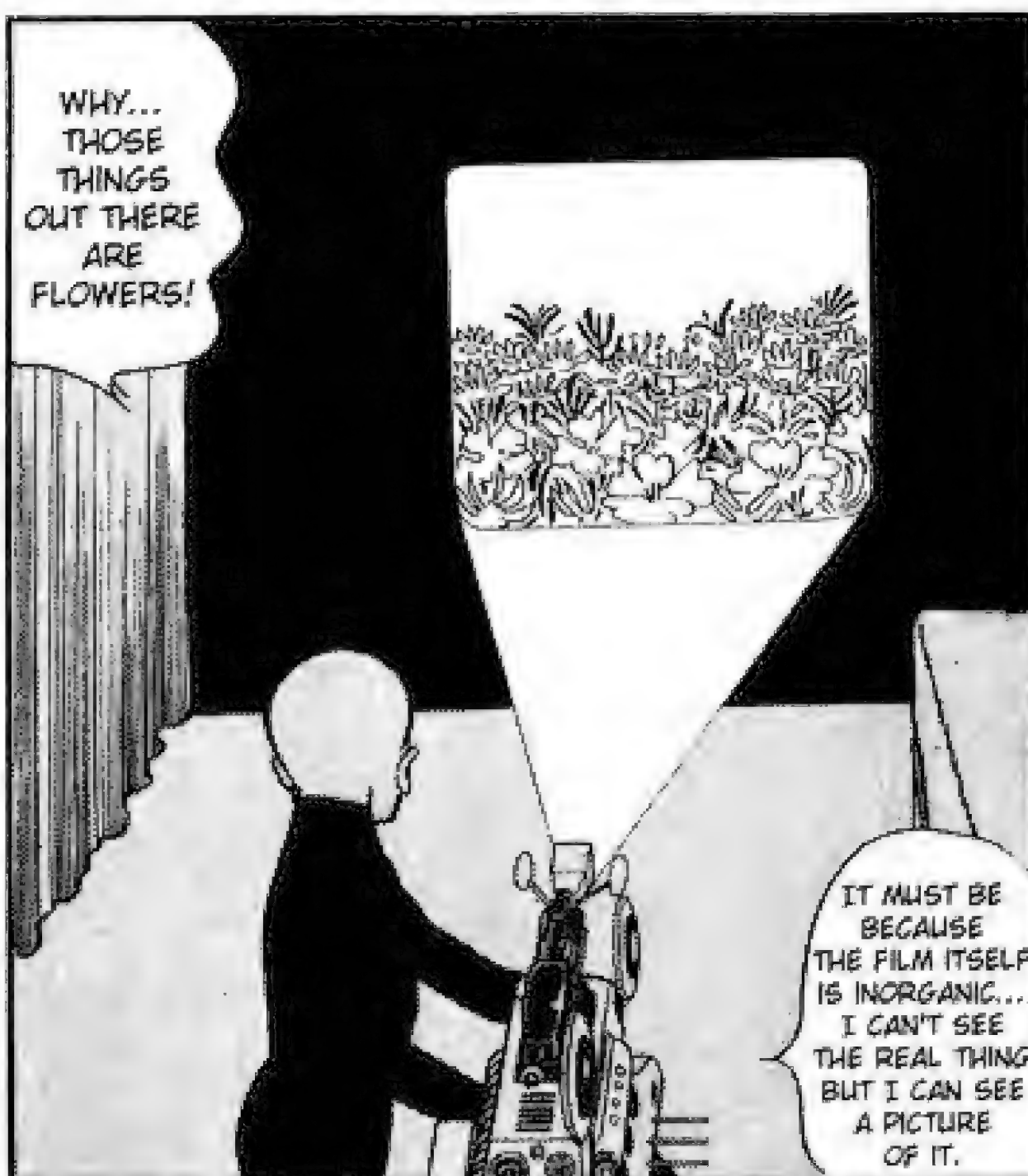
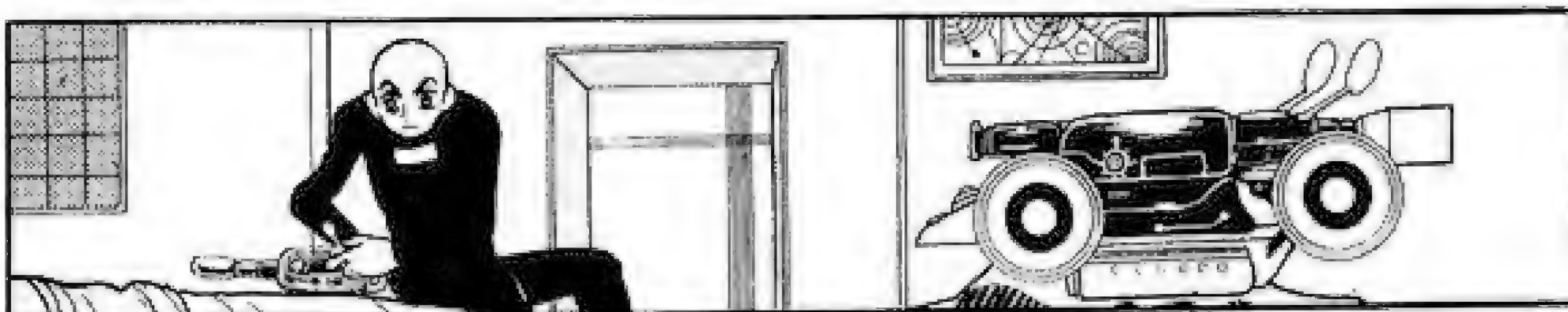
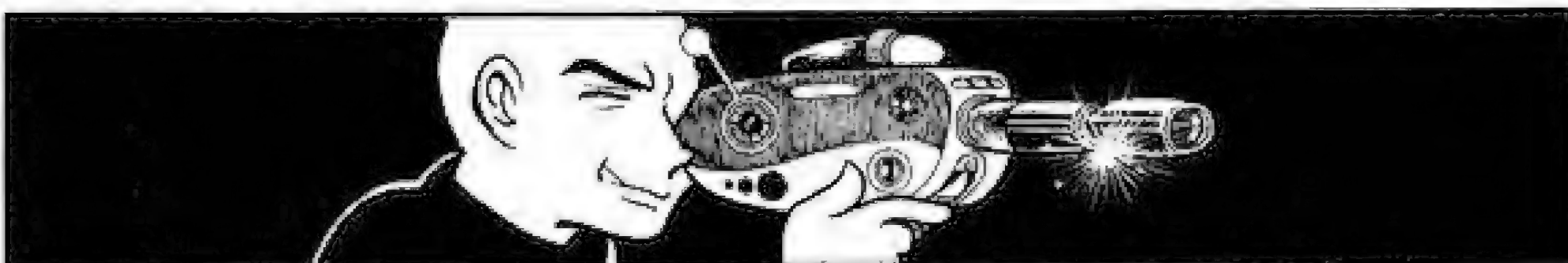
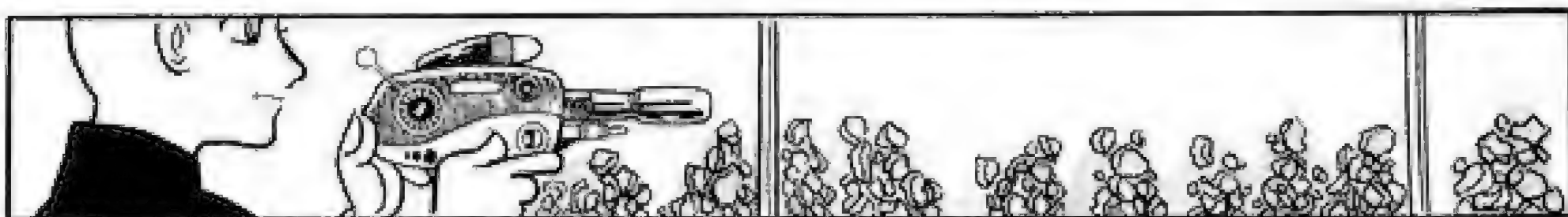
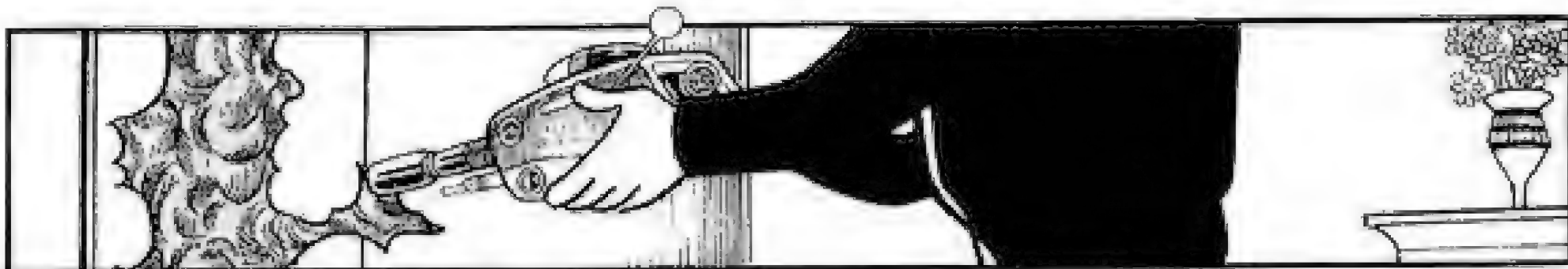


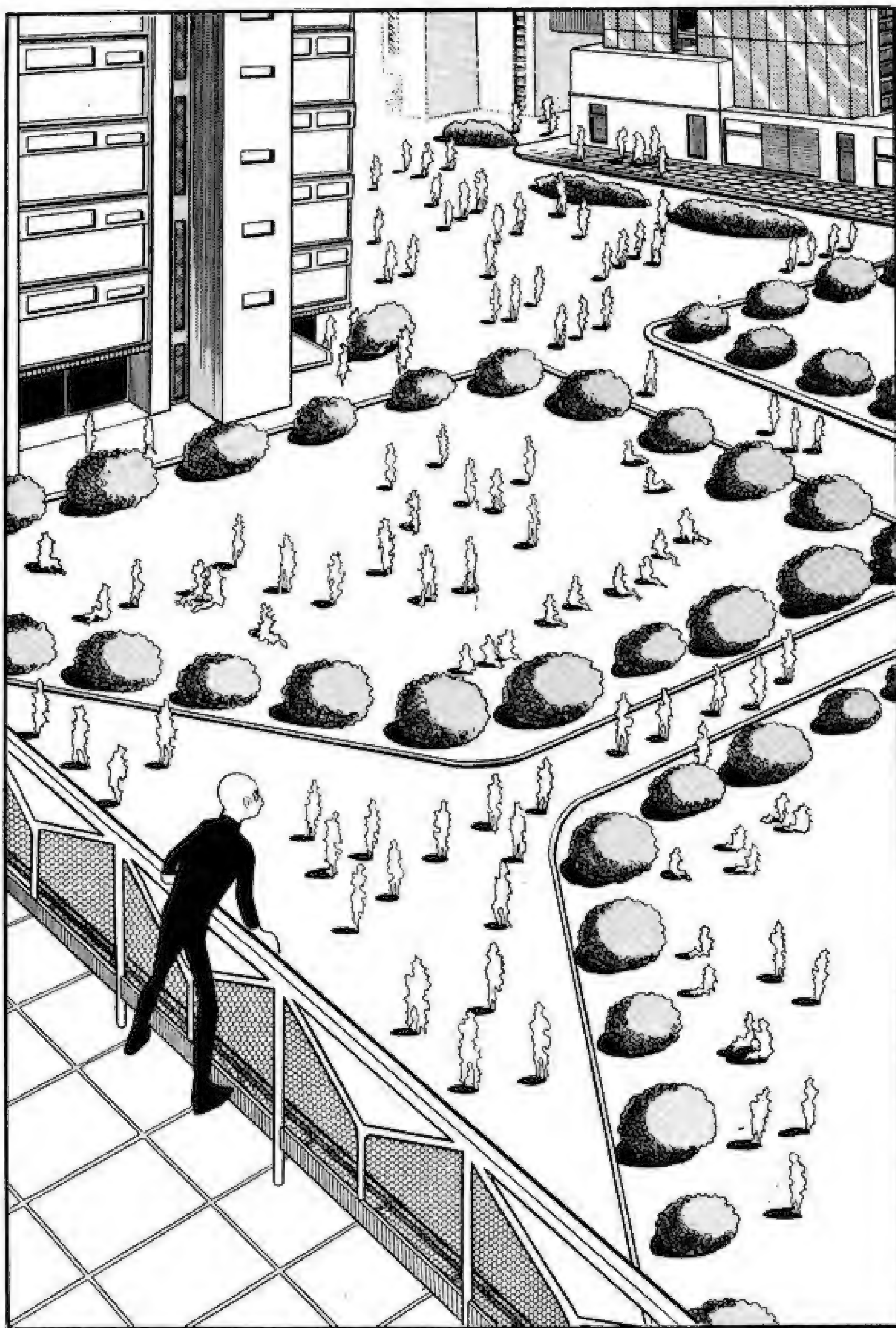


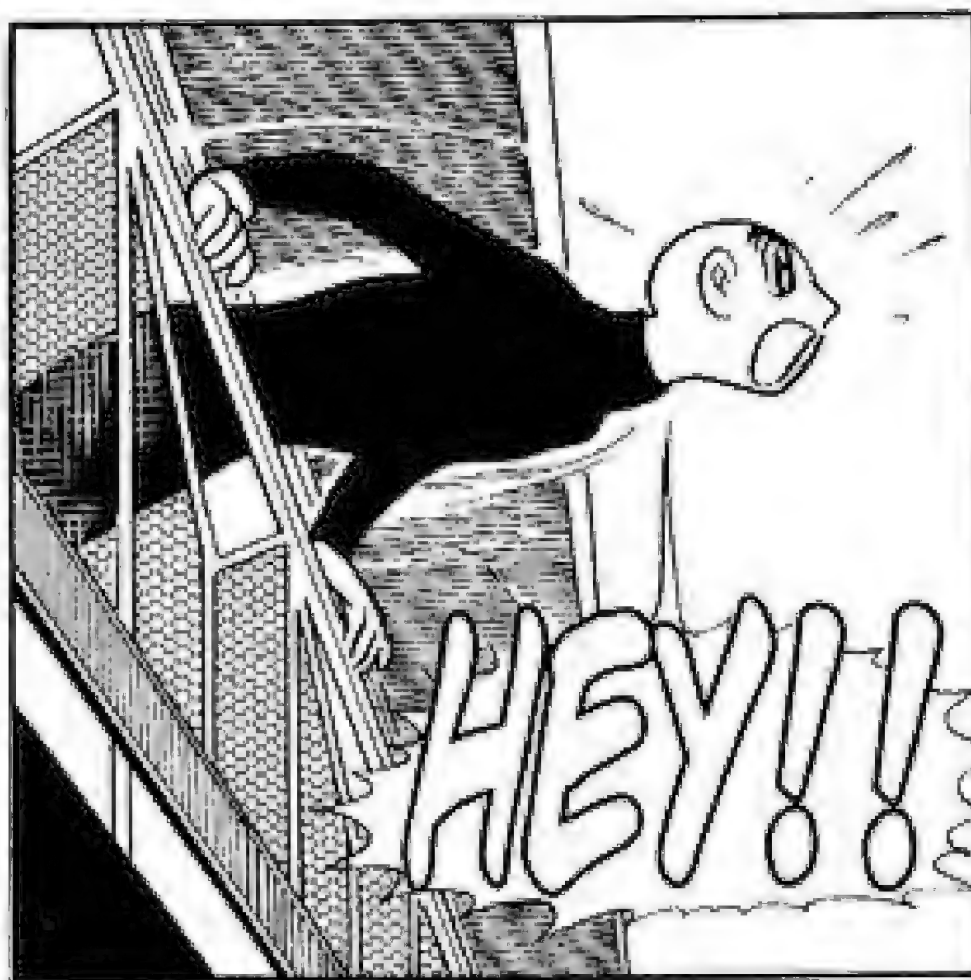
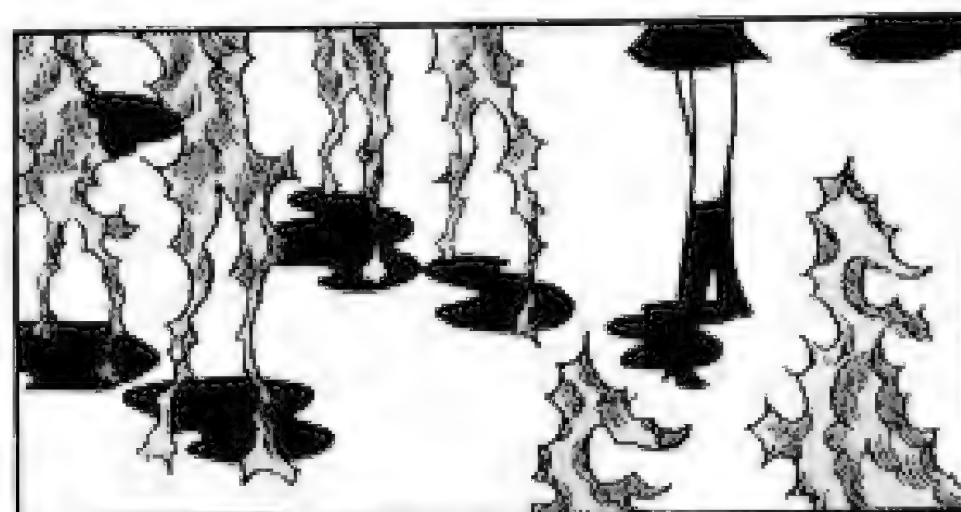
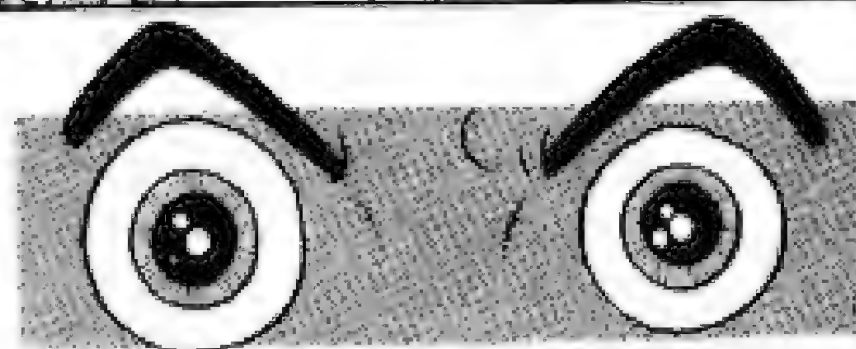
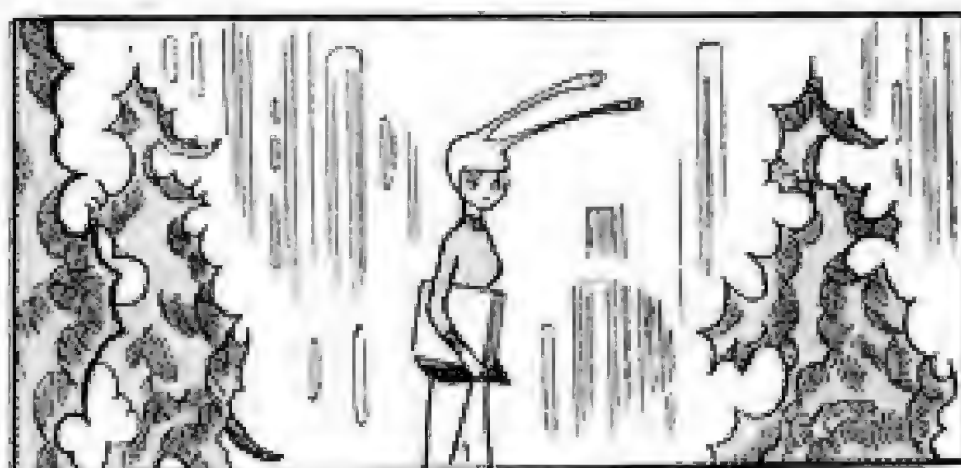
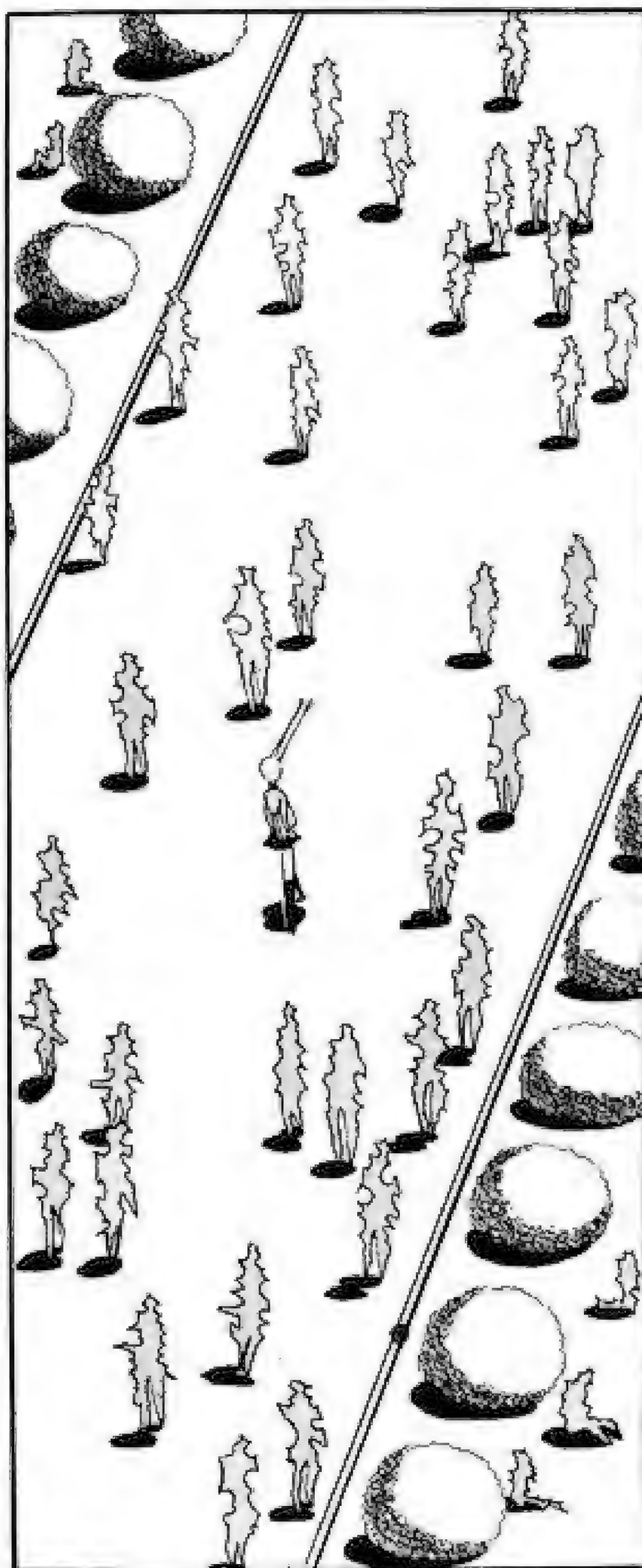
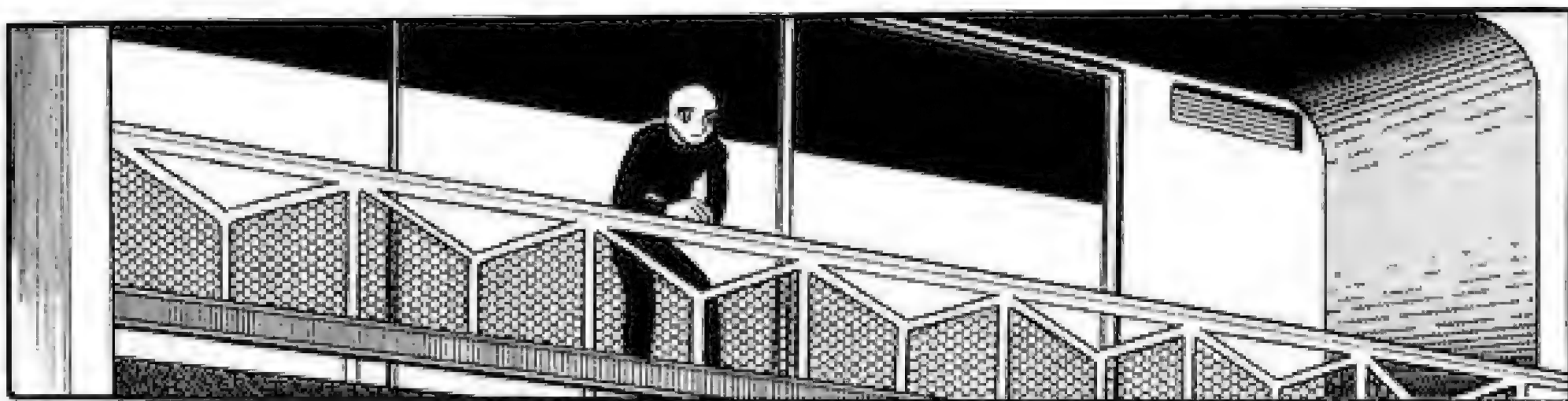




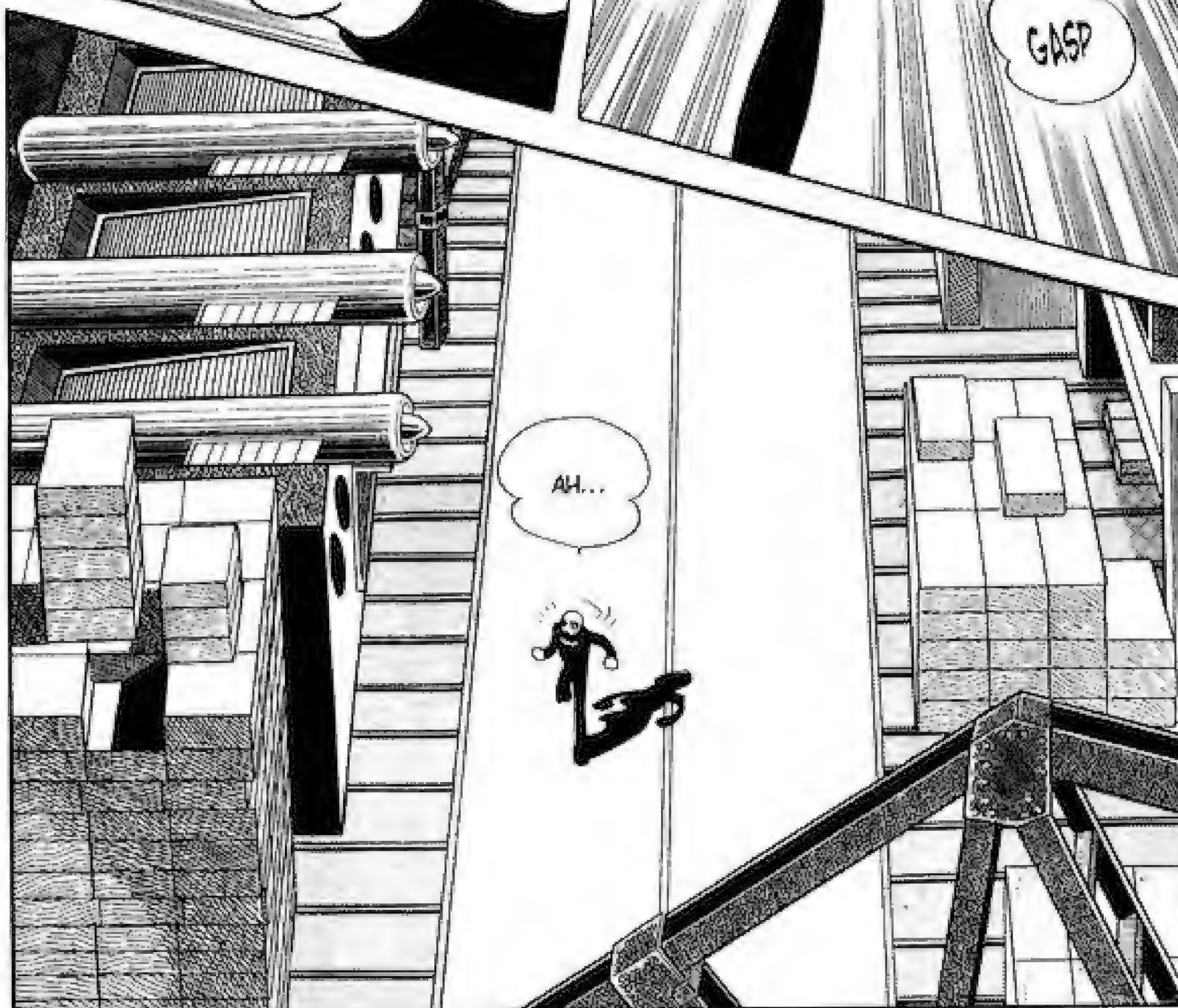
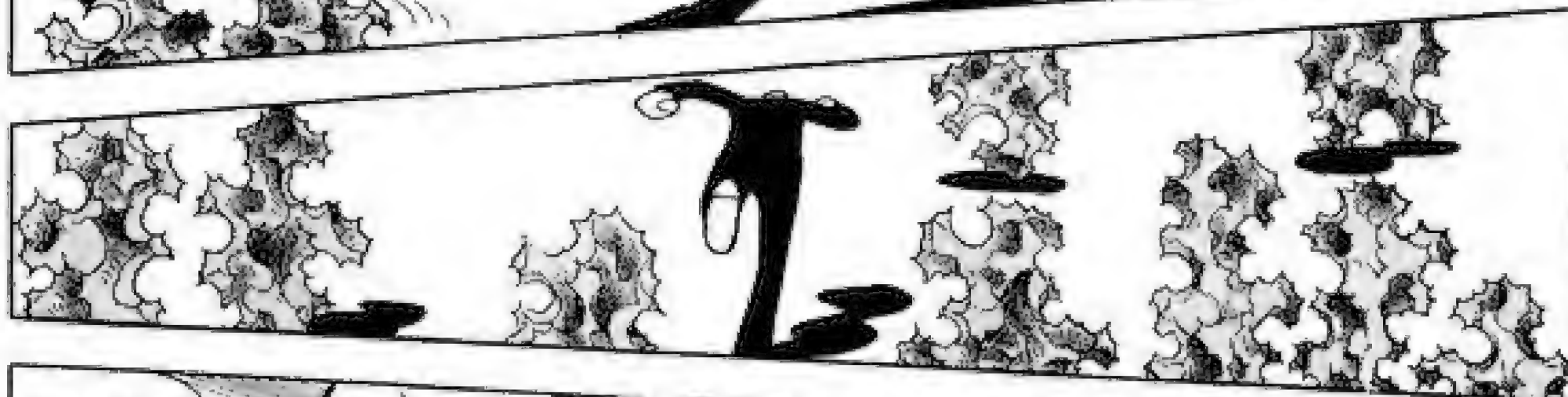


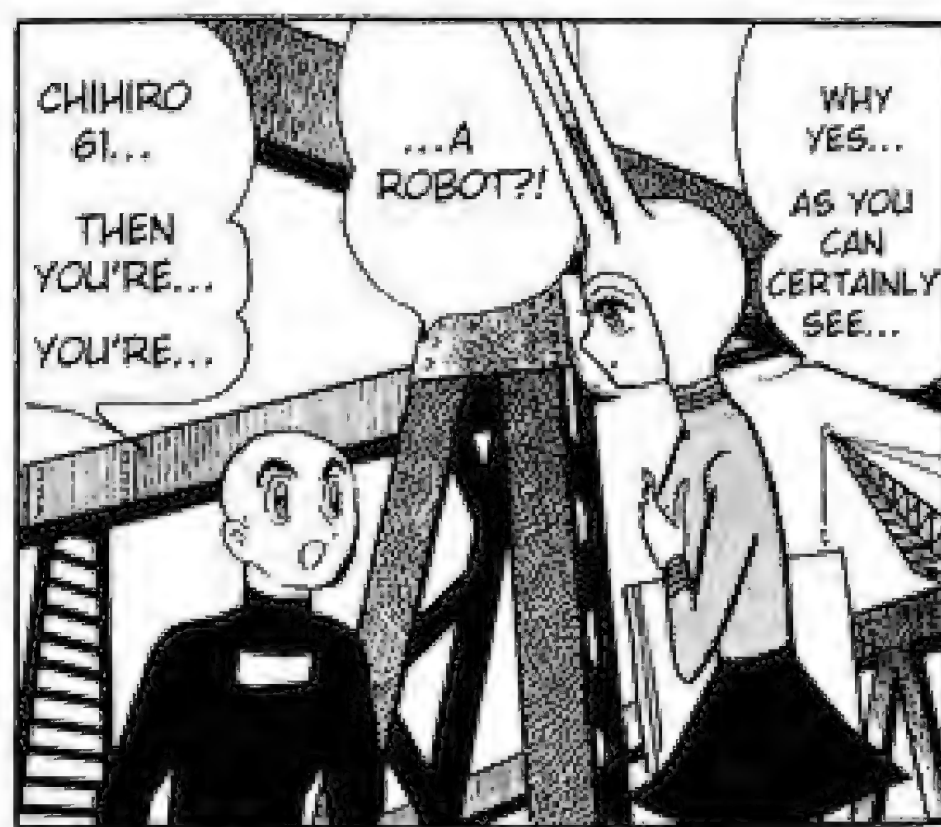
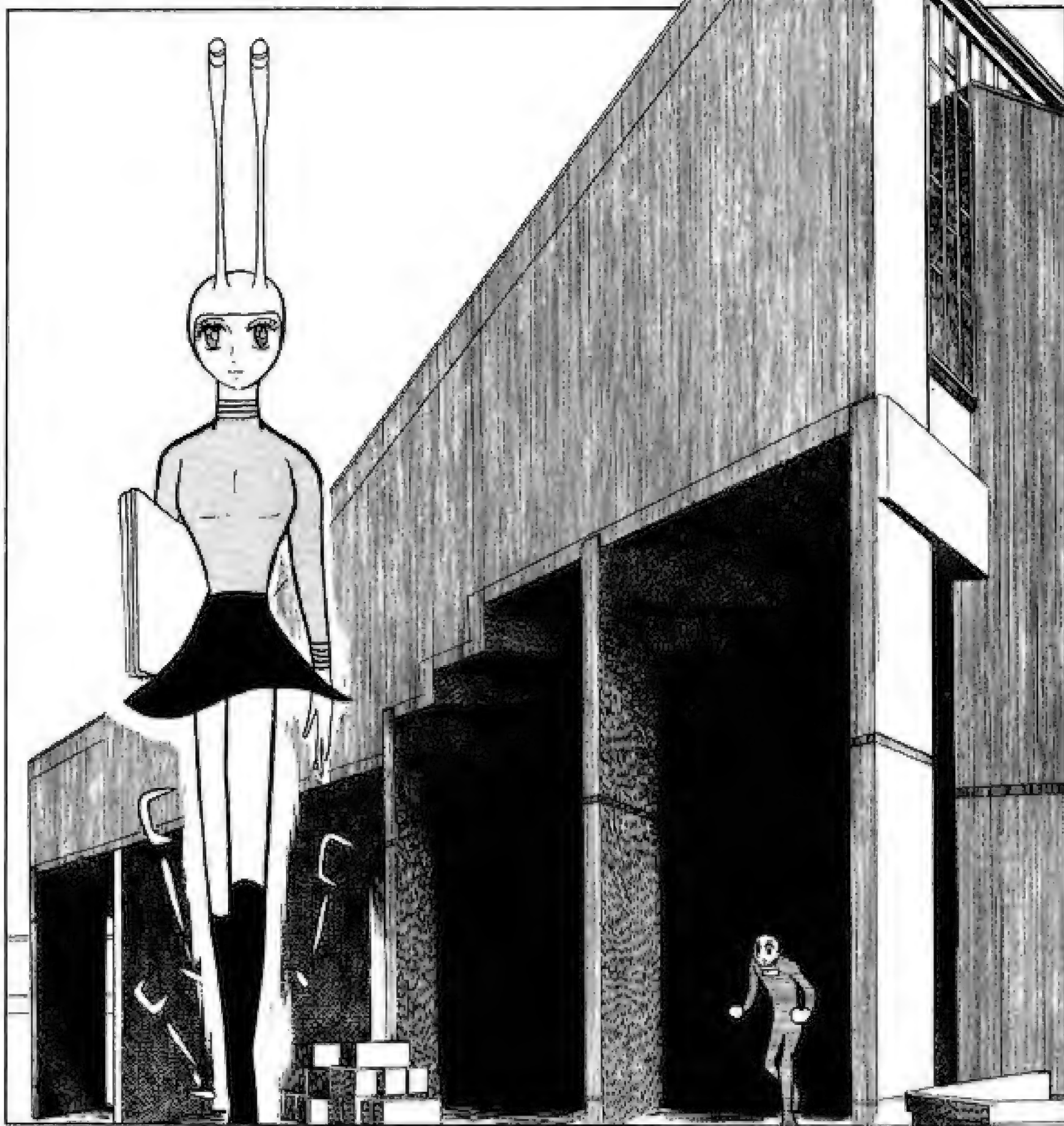


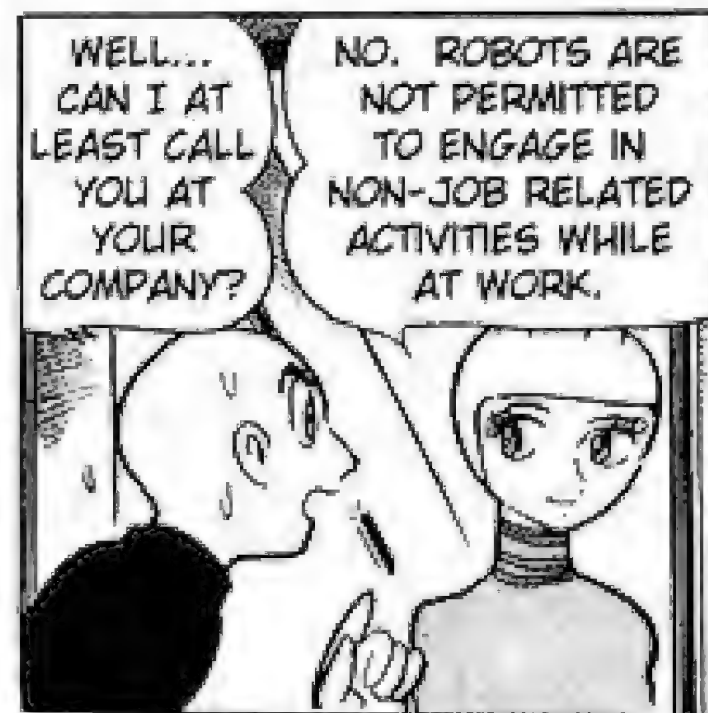
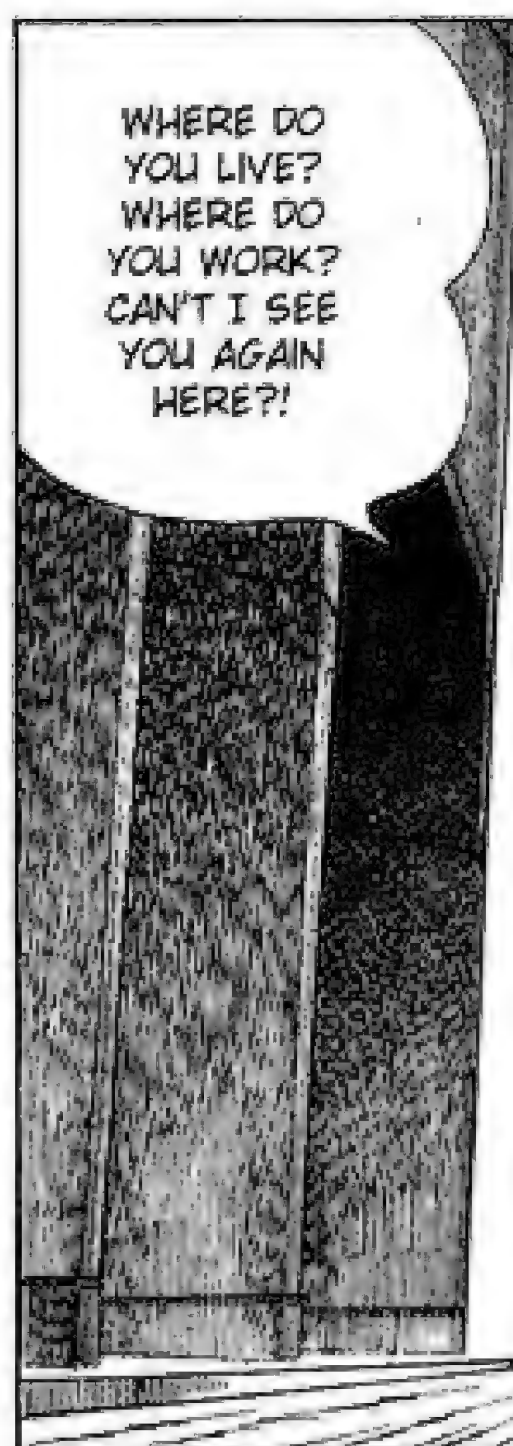
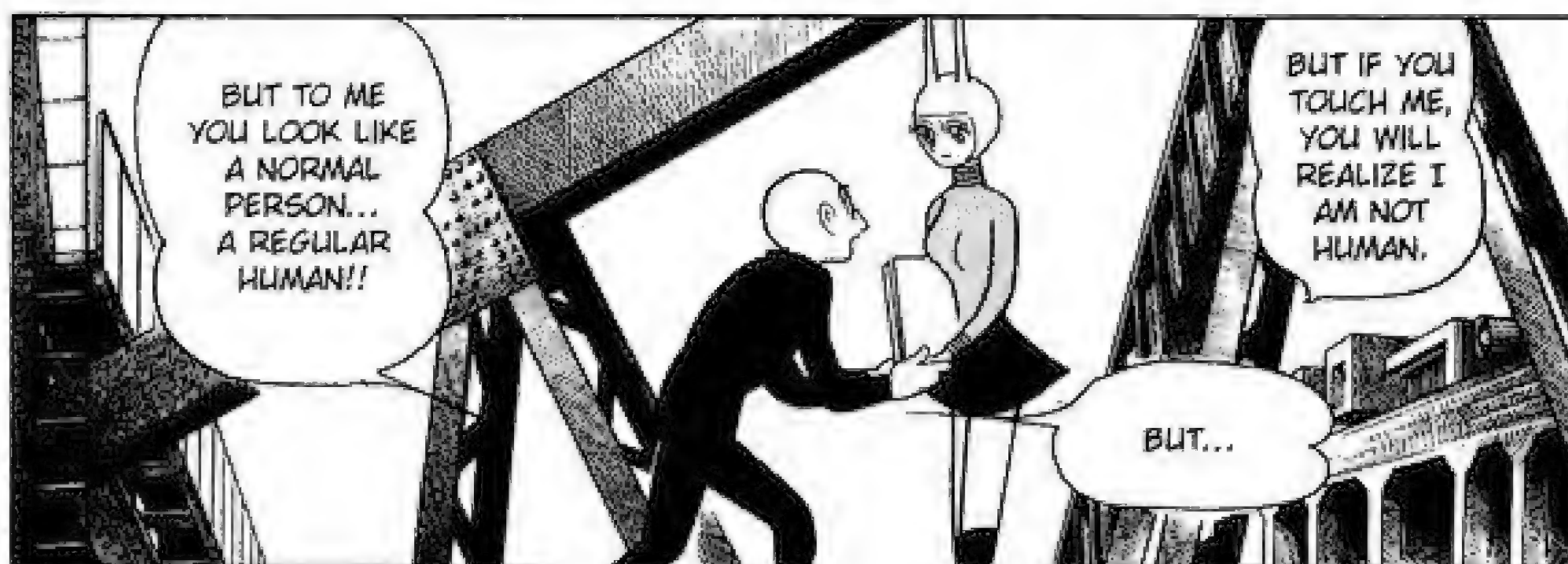


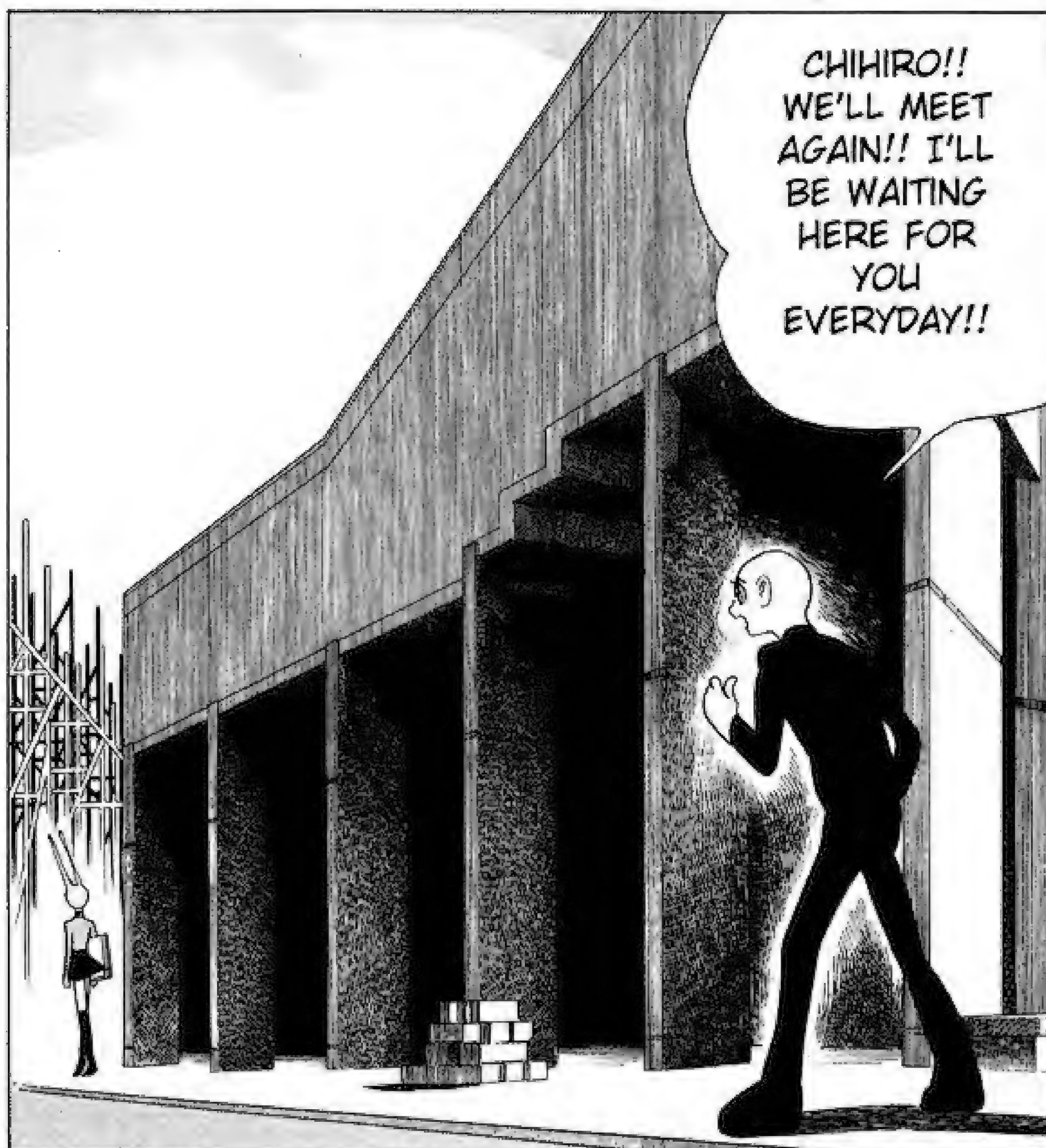




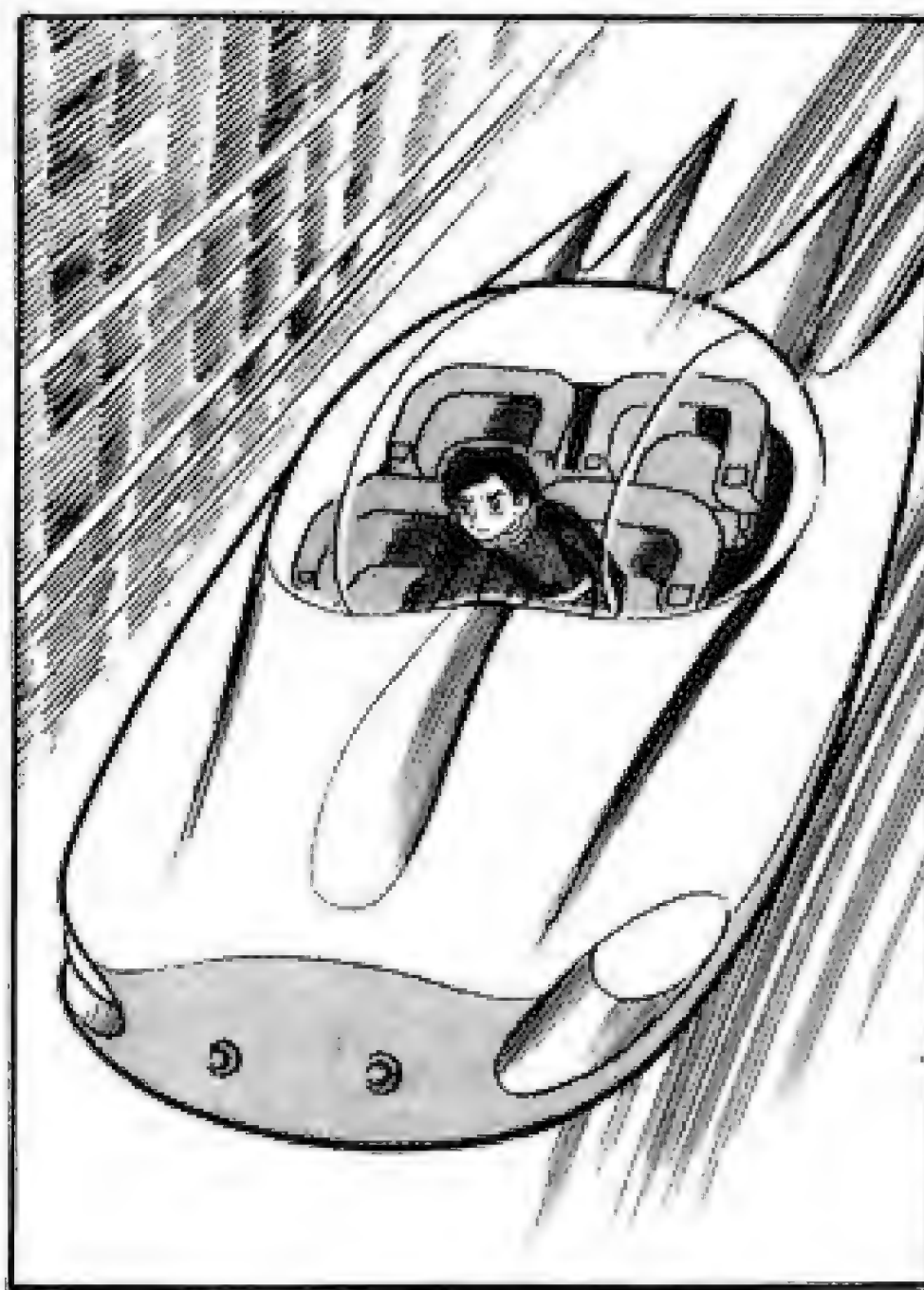
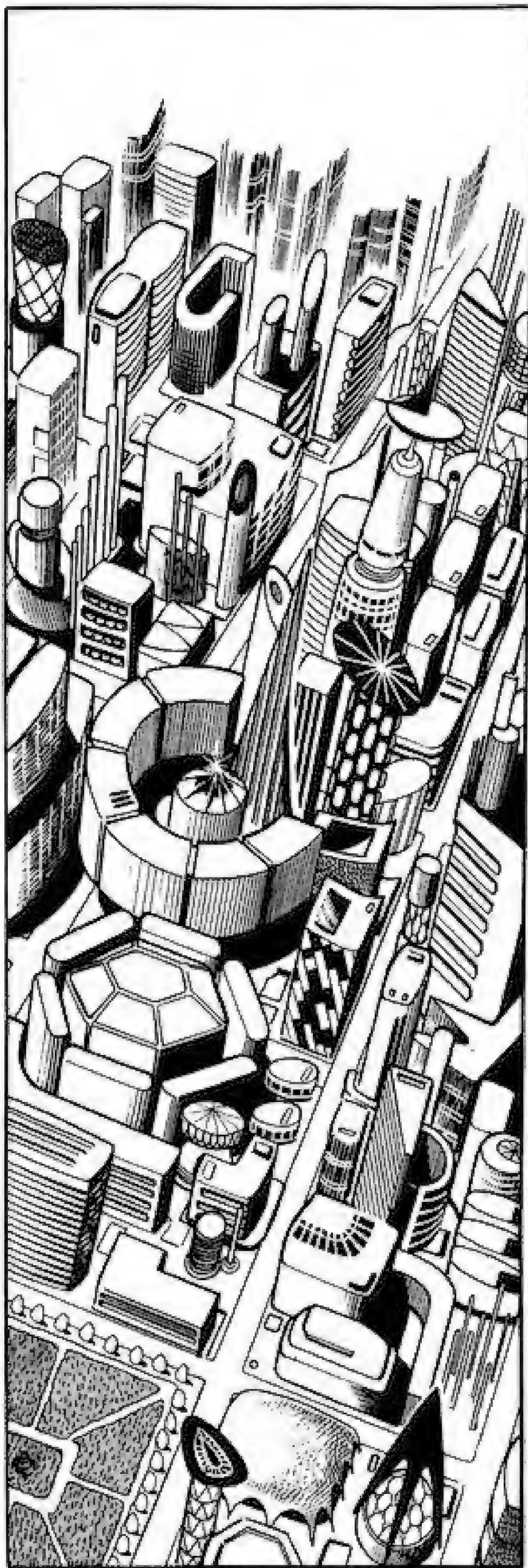








AD 2483



IT'S BEEN
ALMOST A
YEAR SINCE
WE FIRST MET.
I CAN'T STAND
JUST MEETING
HER FOR
A FEW
MINUTES ON
THE STREET
ANYMORE...

JUST WAIT,
CHIHITO... I'LL
TALK TO YOUR
COMPANY AND
FIND SOME WAY
TO MAKE
YOU MINE!



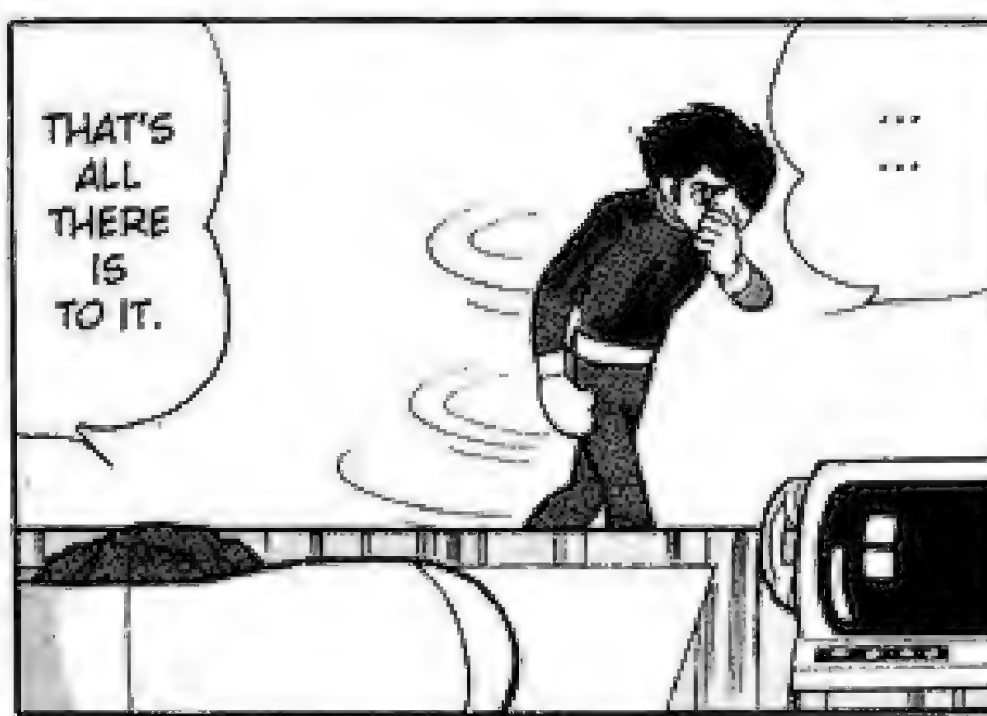


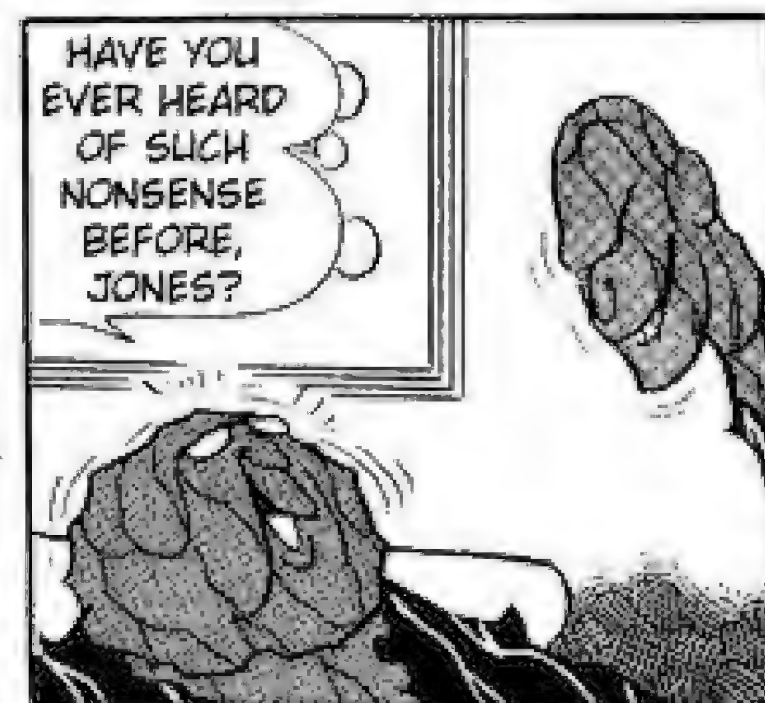
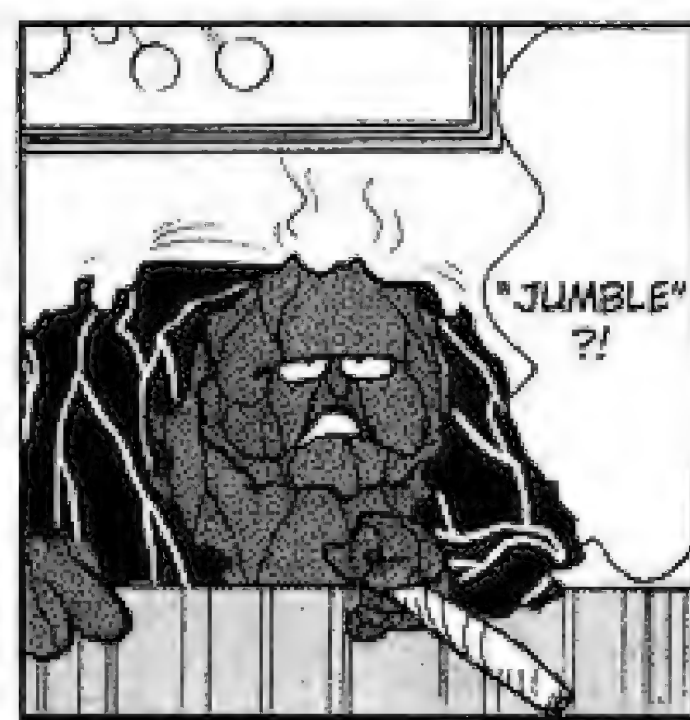
CHIHIRO
61298?



WHY DO
YOU WANT
HER, MR.
MIYATSU?

I JUST
DO, SIR,
SO IF YOU'D
PLEASE
STATE YOUR
PRICE...

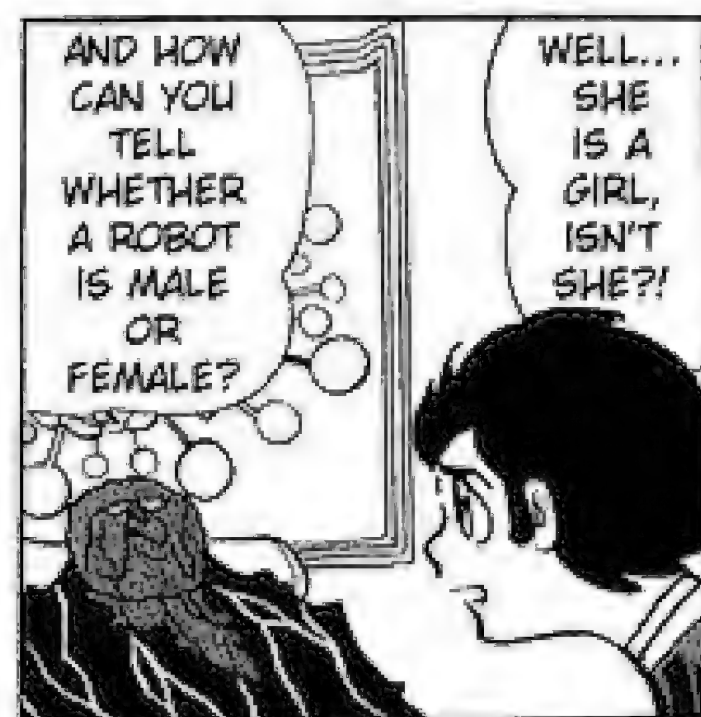






BUT IT'S TRUE!
SHE'S BEAUTIFUL!
SHE'S THE MOST
BEAUTIFUL GIRL
I'VE EVER MET!!

Snickers
GIRL!?



AND HOW
CAN YOU
TELL
WHETHER
A ROBOT
IS MALE
OR
FEMALE?

WELL...
SHE
IS A
GIRL,
ISN'T
SHE?!



TO TELL
YOU THE
HONEST
TRUTH...

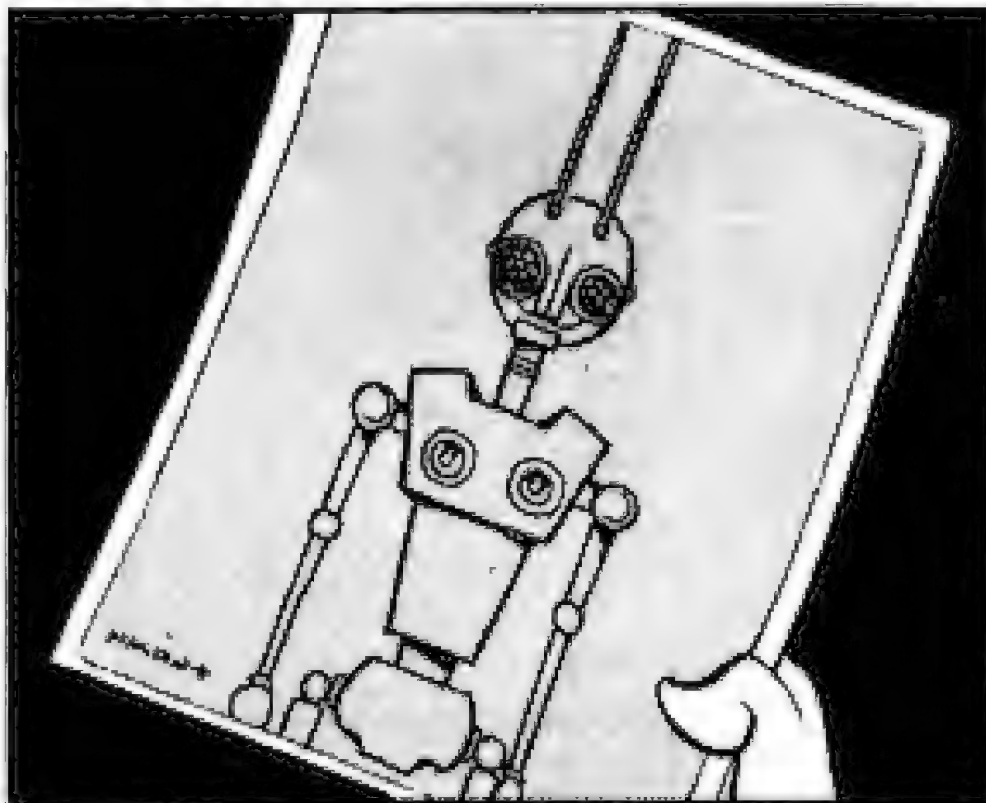
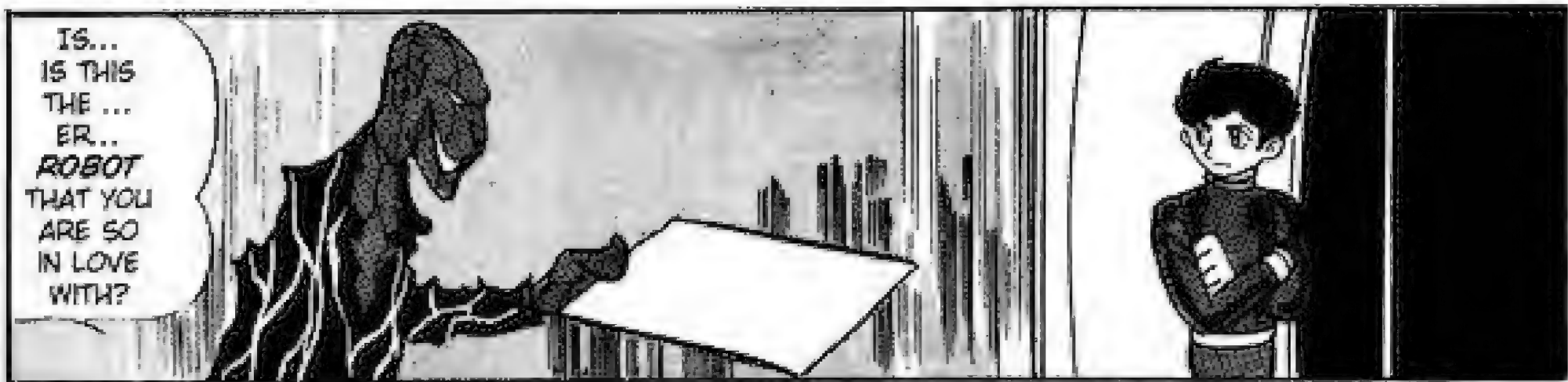
I LOVE
CHIHITO!!

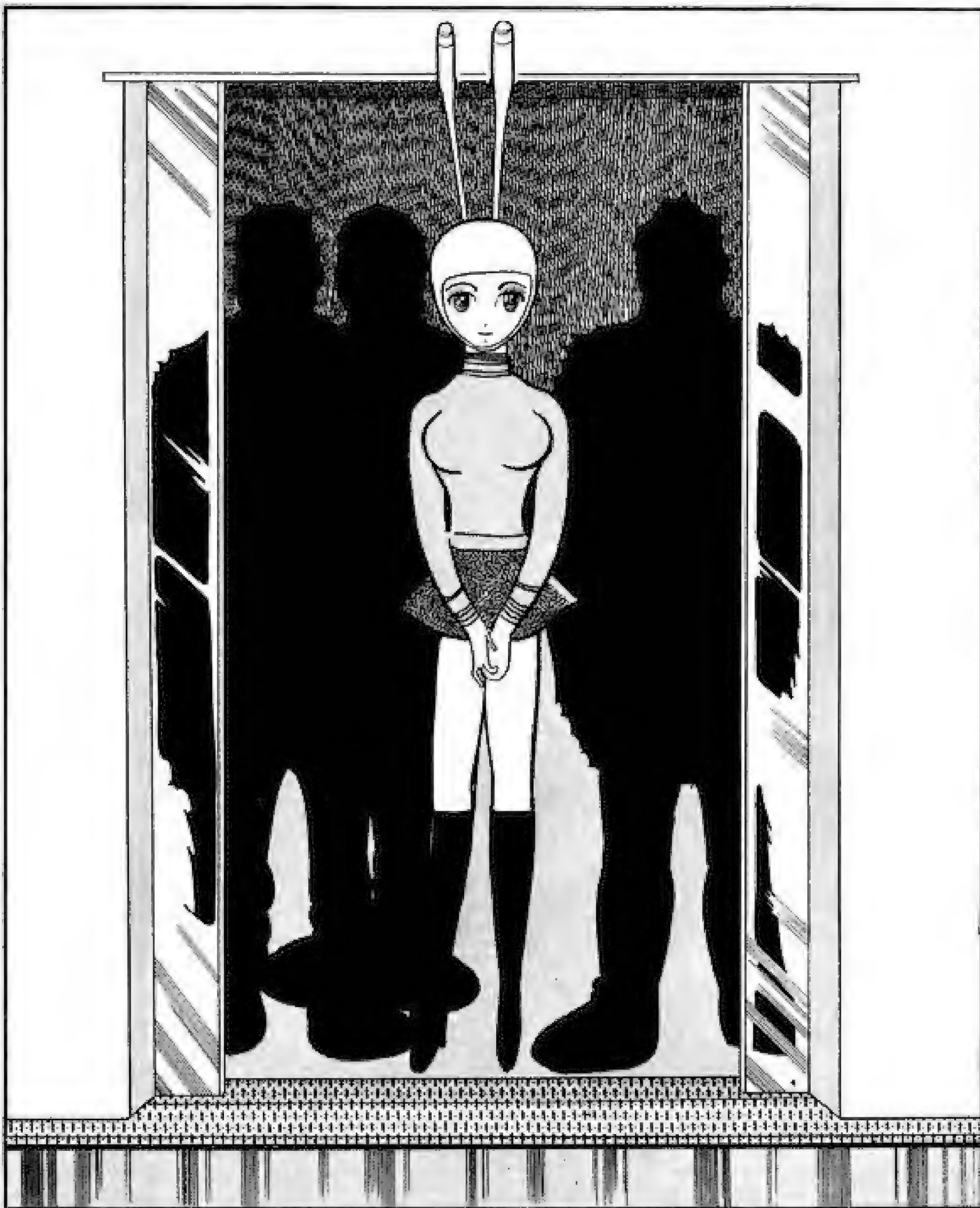
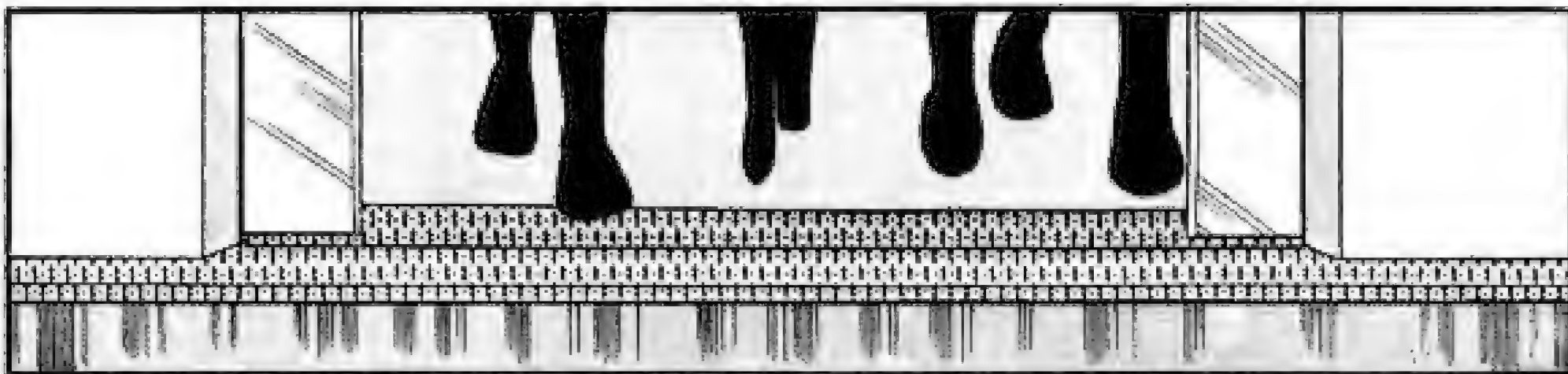


I
LOVE
HER!

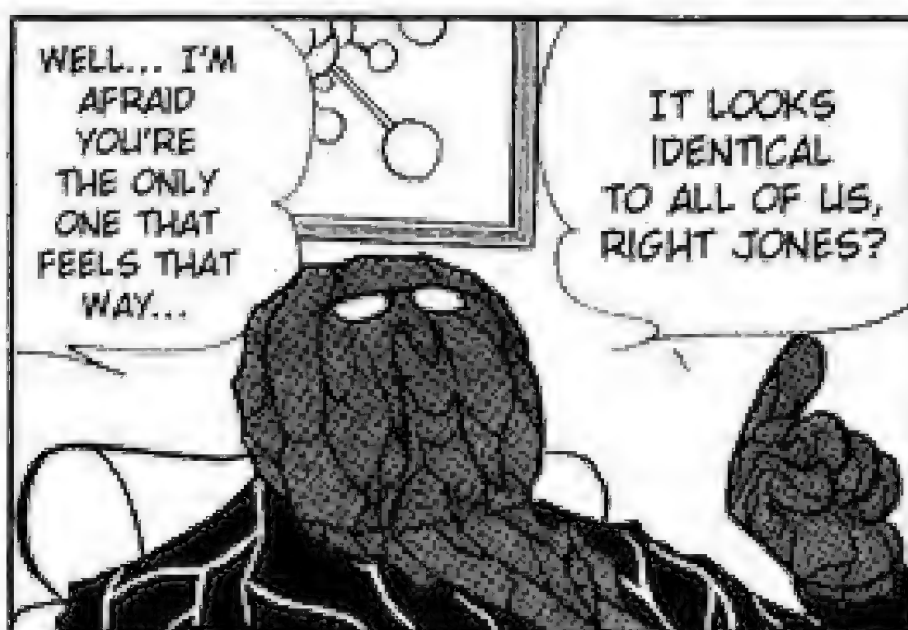
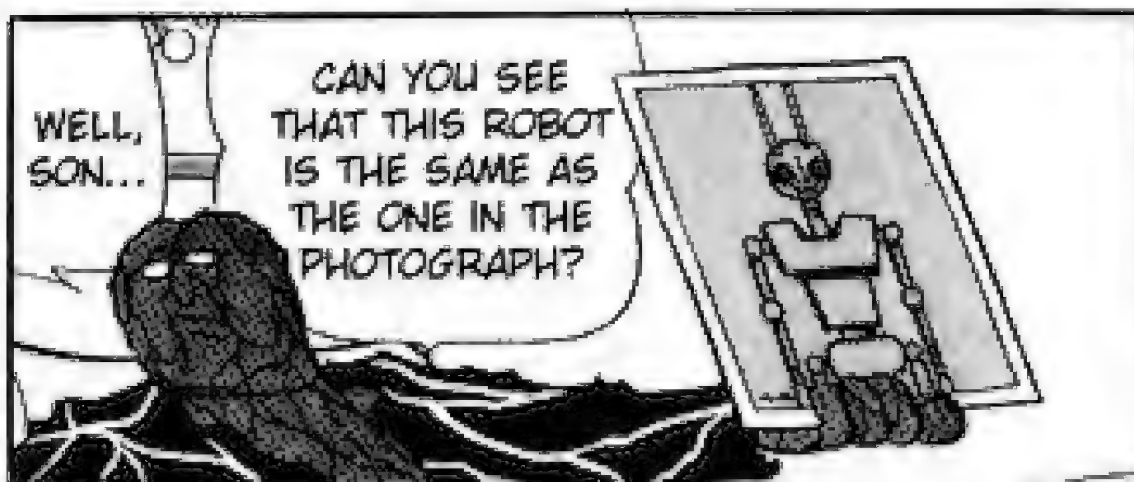
...AND
THAT'S
WHY I
WANT
HER!!

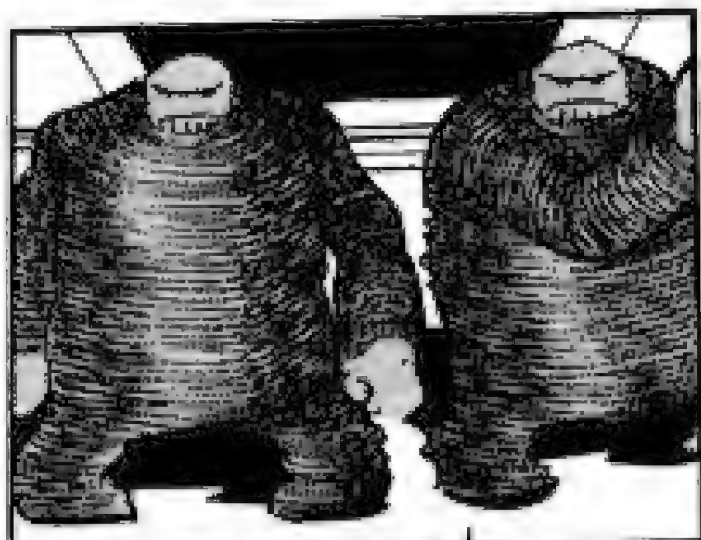
I'VE
BEEN
MEETING
HER
EVERY
DAY!!

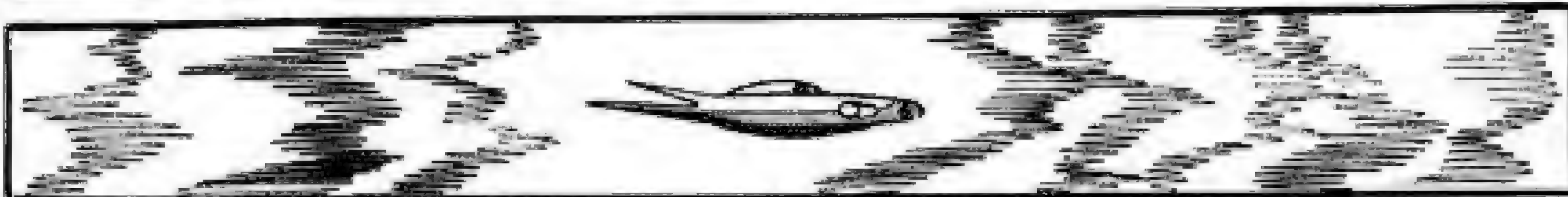
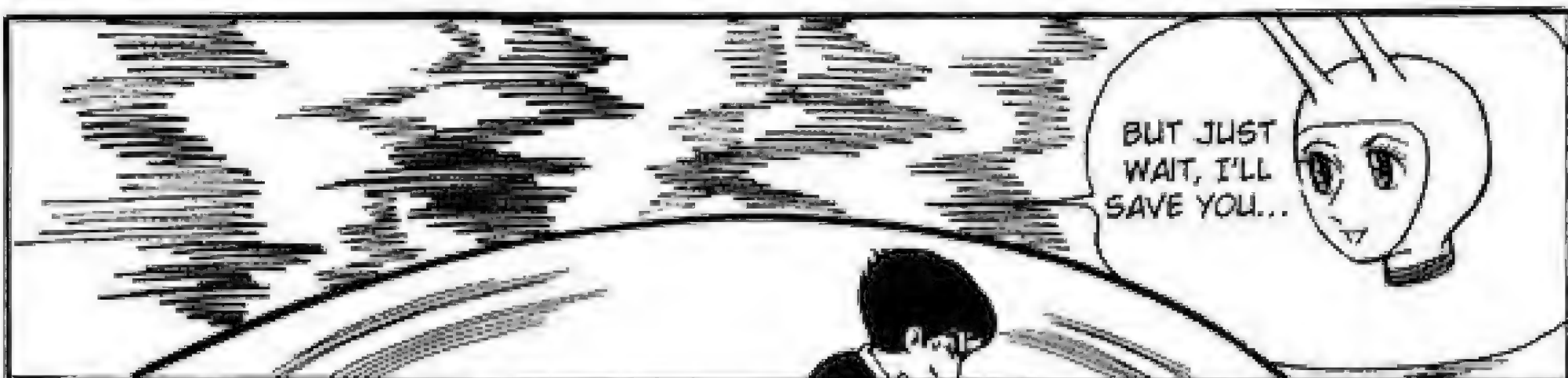
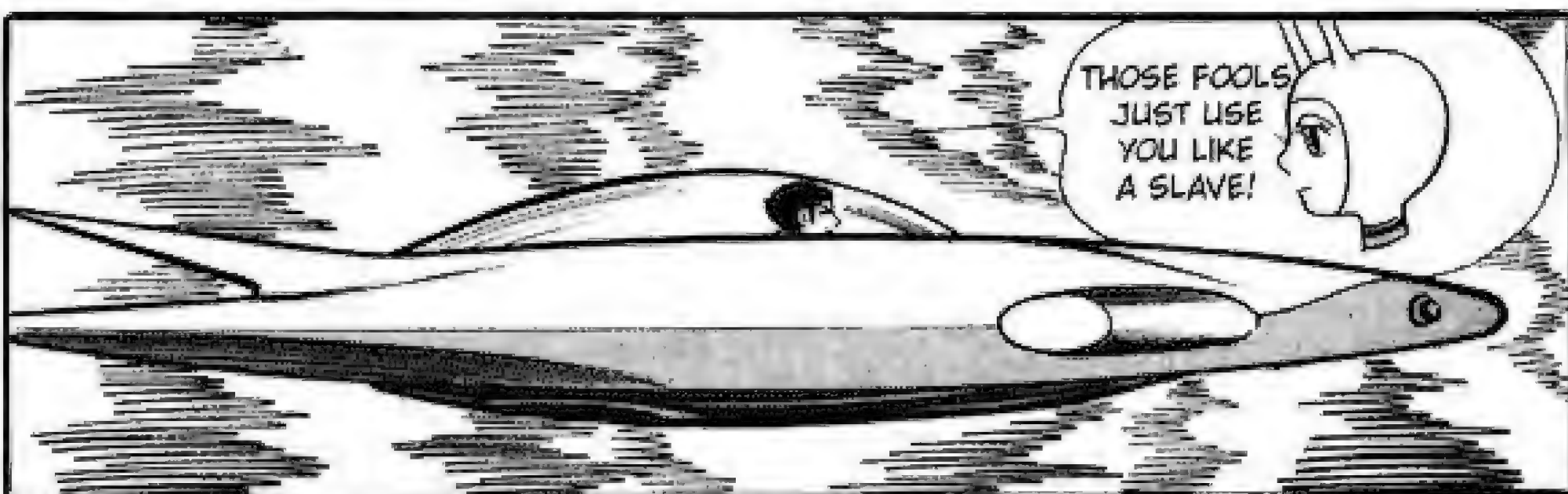
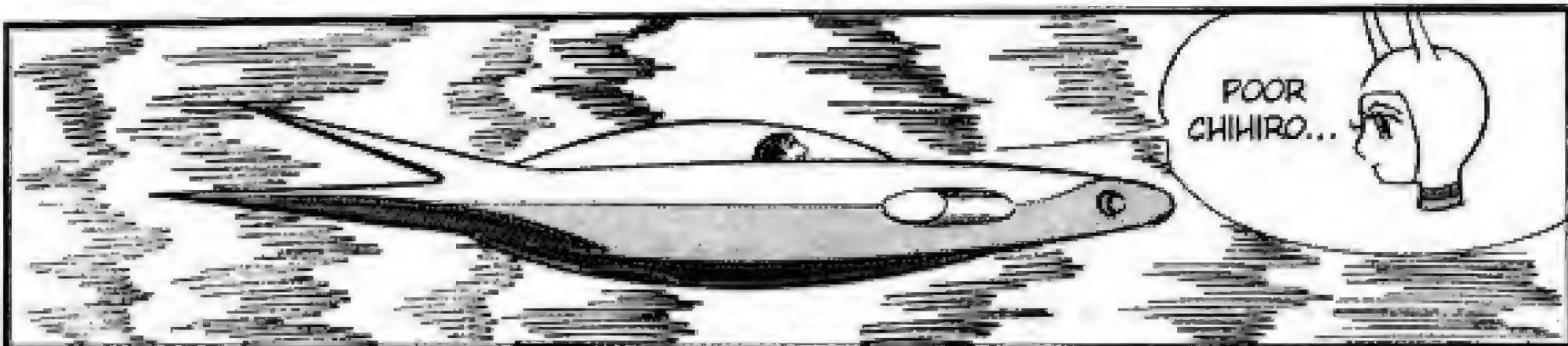
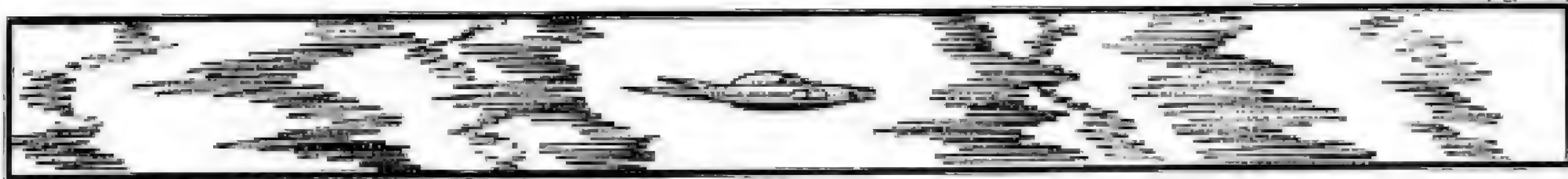


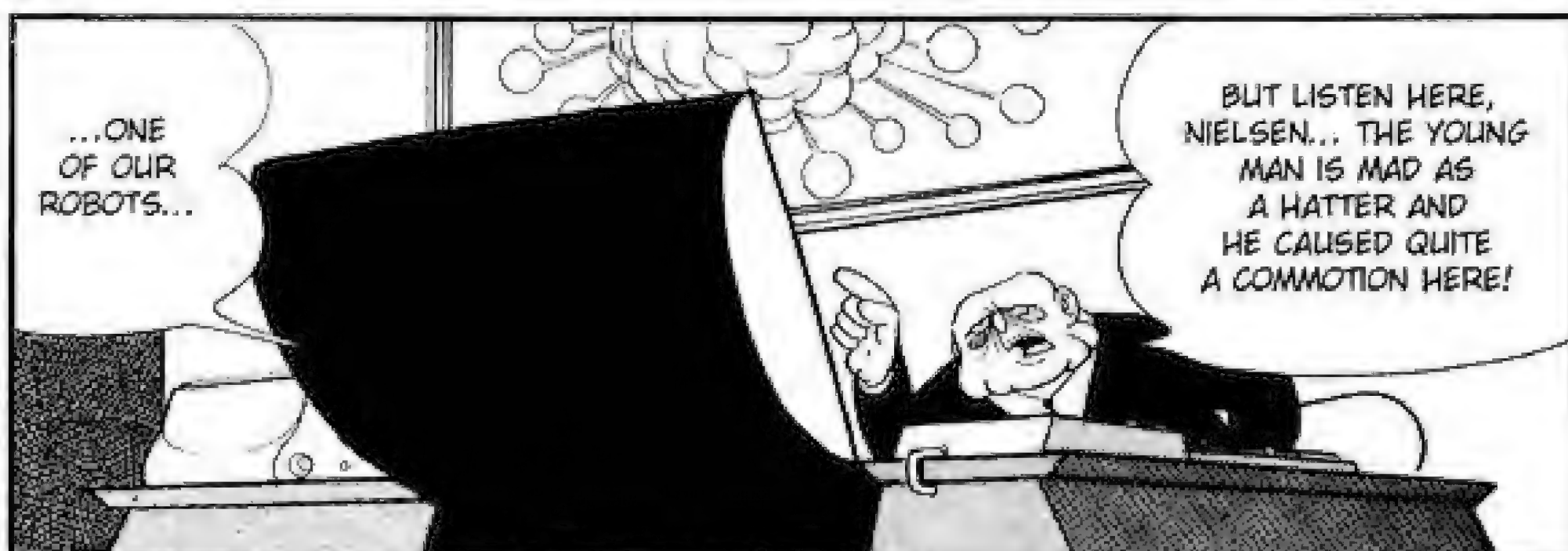
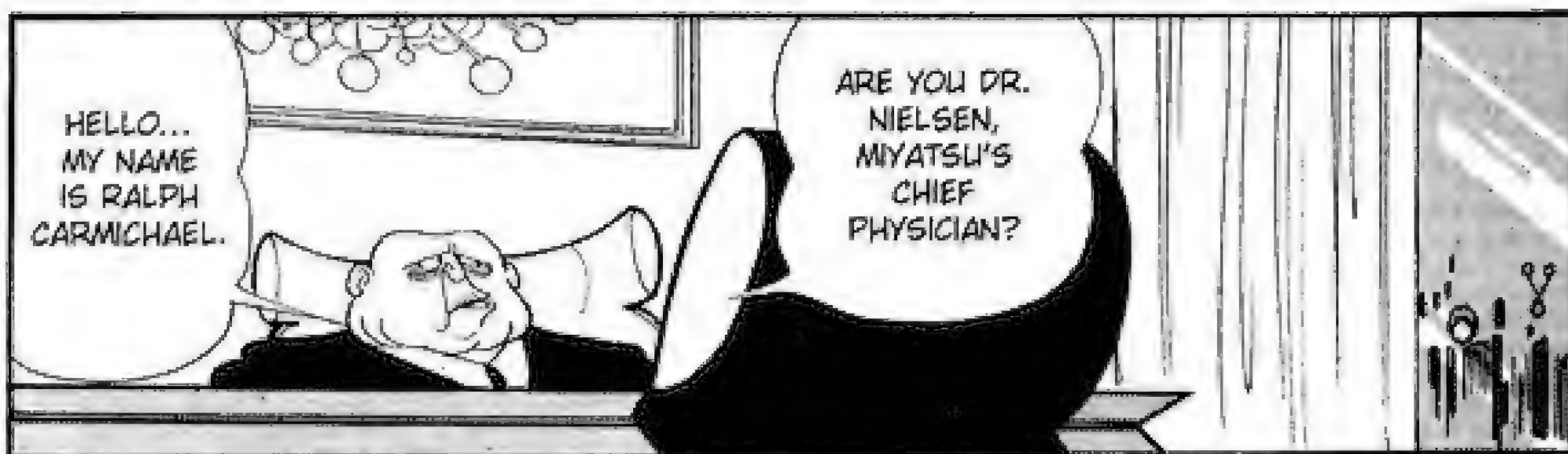


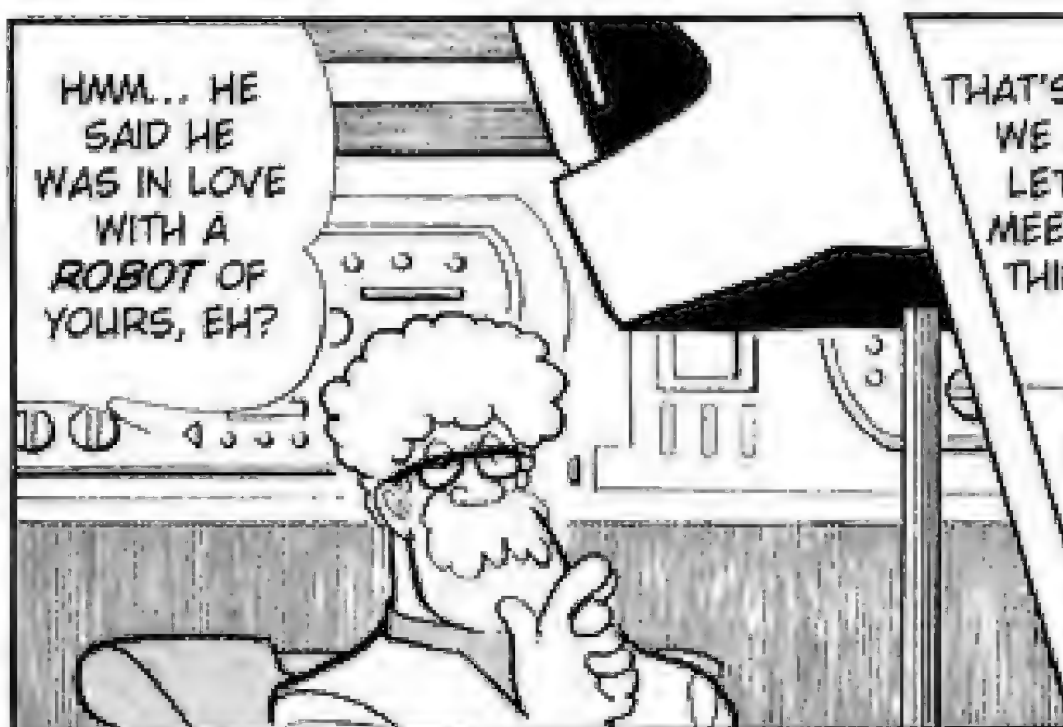












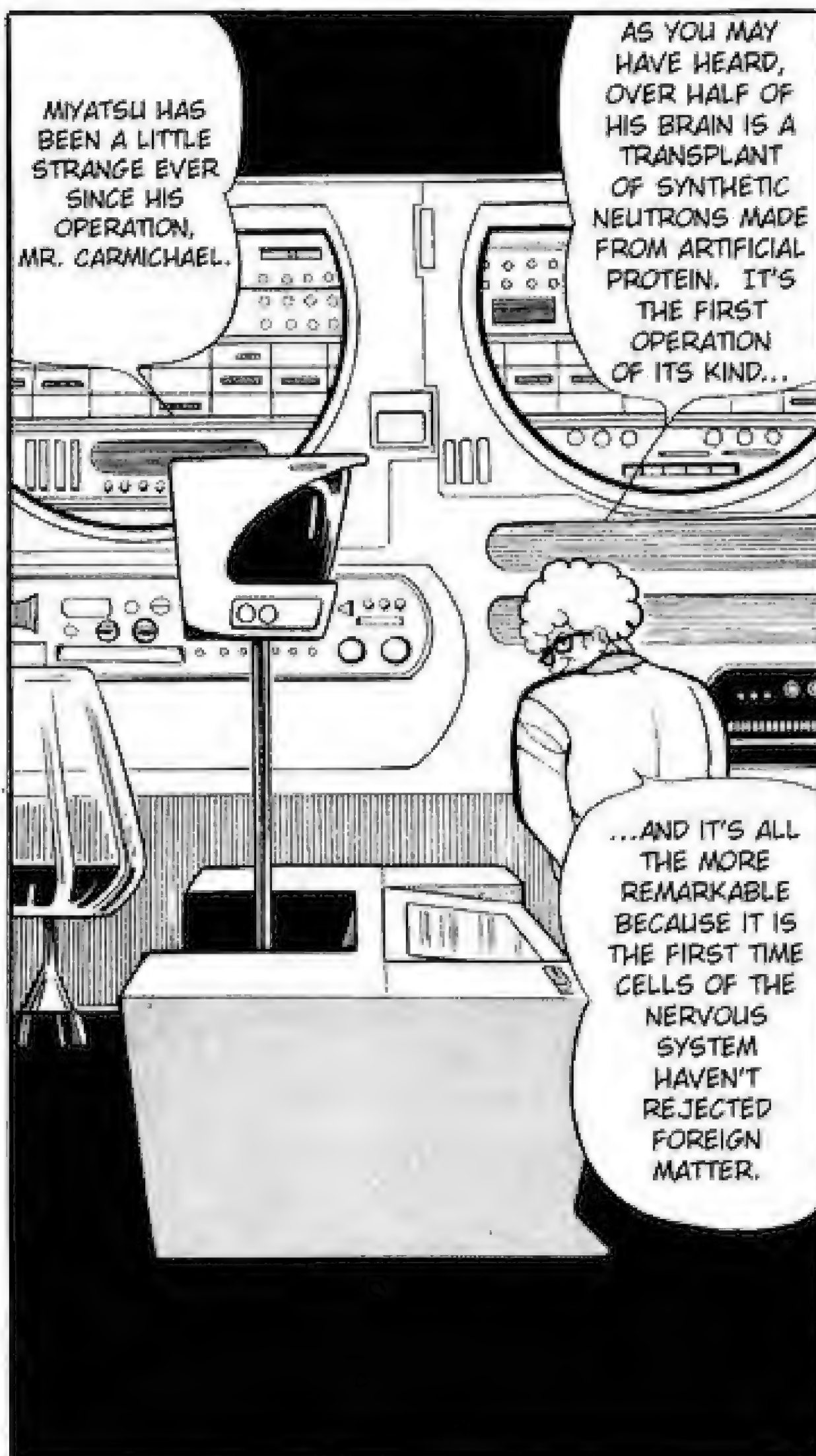
HMM... HE SAID HE WAS IN LOVE WITH A **ROBOT** OF YOURS, EH?



THAT'S RIGHT. WE EVEN LET HIM MEET THE THING...



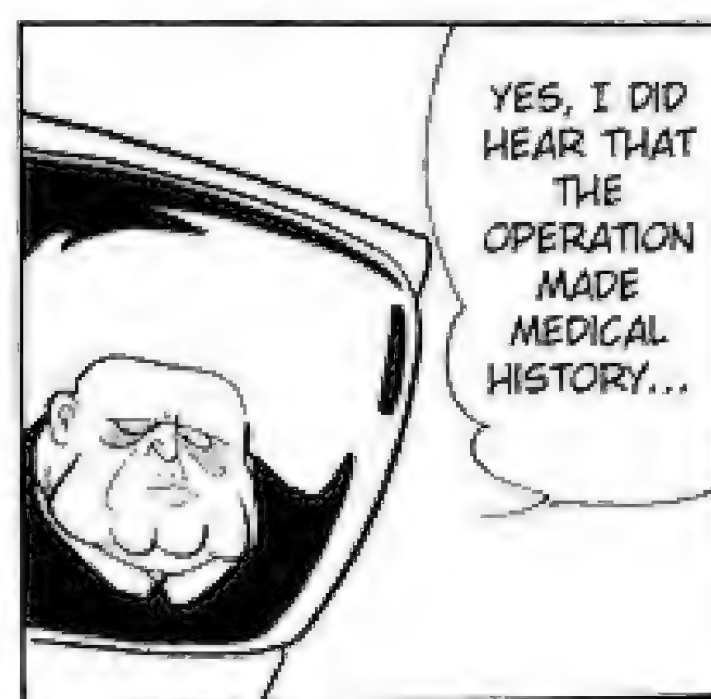
BUT HE GOT A LITTLE OVER-EXCITED.



MIYATSU HAS BEEN A LITTLE STRANGE EVER SINCE HIS OPERATION, MR. CARMICHAEL.

AS YOU MAY HAVE HEARD, OVER HALF OF HIS BRAIN IS A TRANSPLANT OF SYNTHETIC NEUTRONS MADE FROM ARTIFICIAL PROTEIN. IT'S THE FIRST OPERATION OF ITS KIND...

...AND IT'S ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE BECAUSE IT IS THE FIRST TIME CELLS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM HAVEN'T REJECTED FOREIGN MATTER.

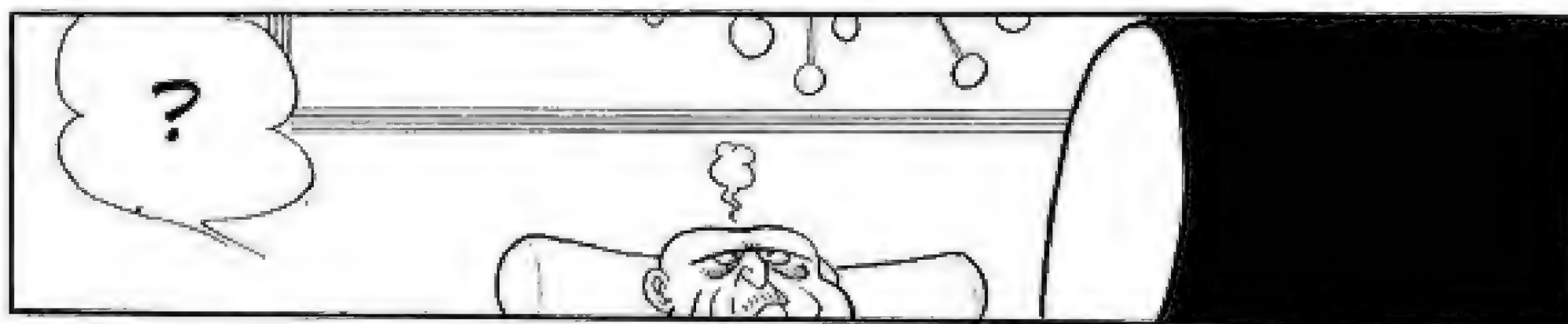
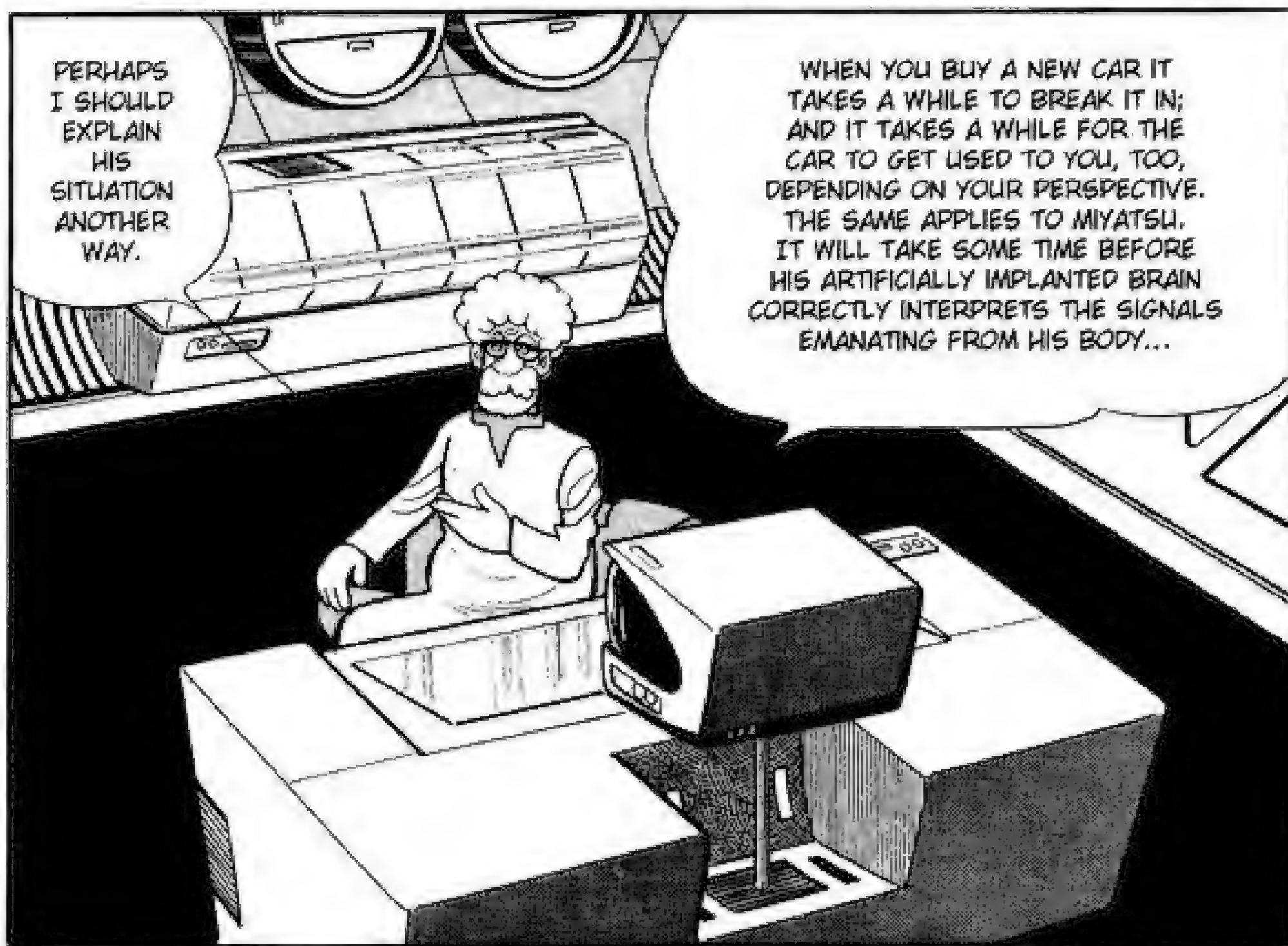


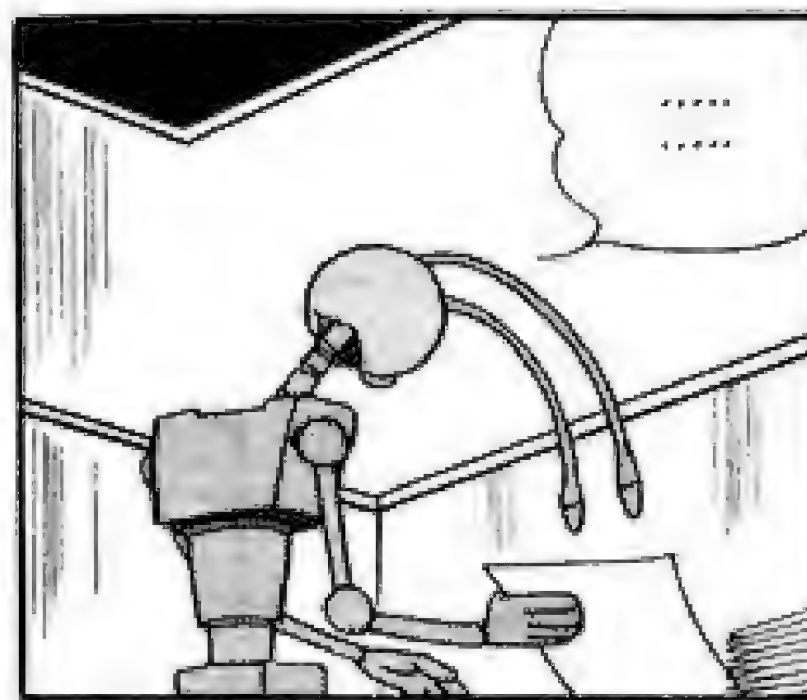
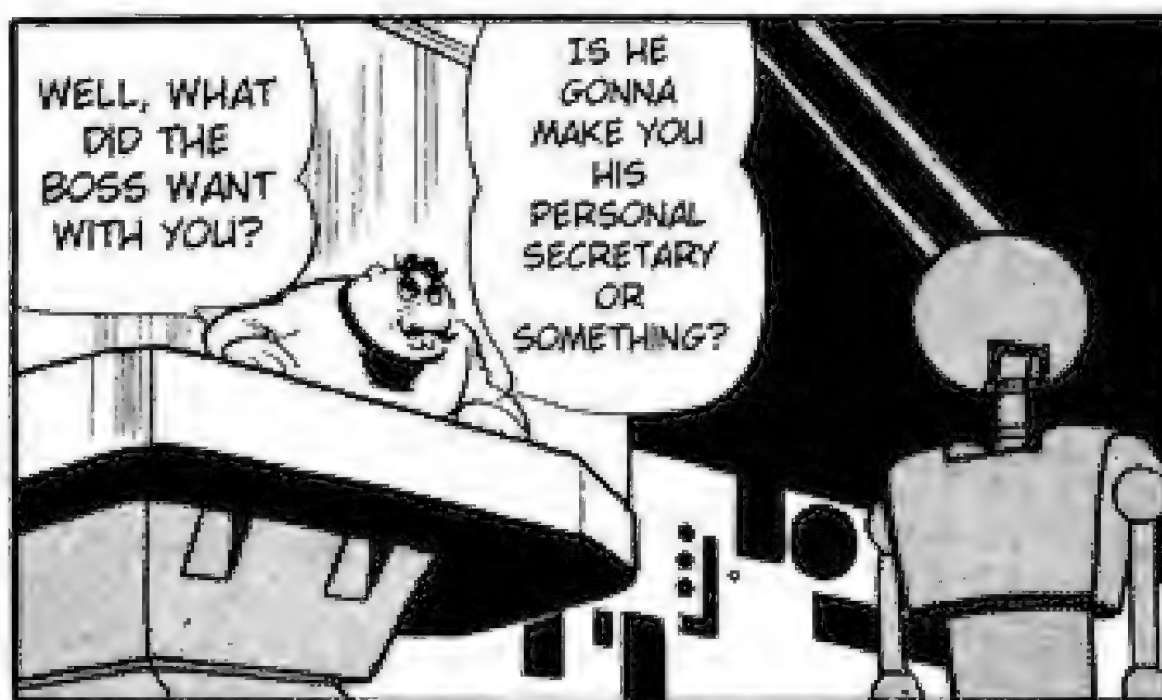
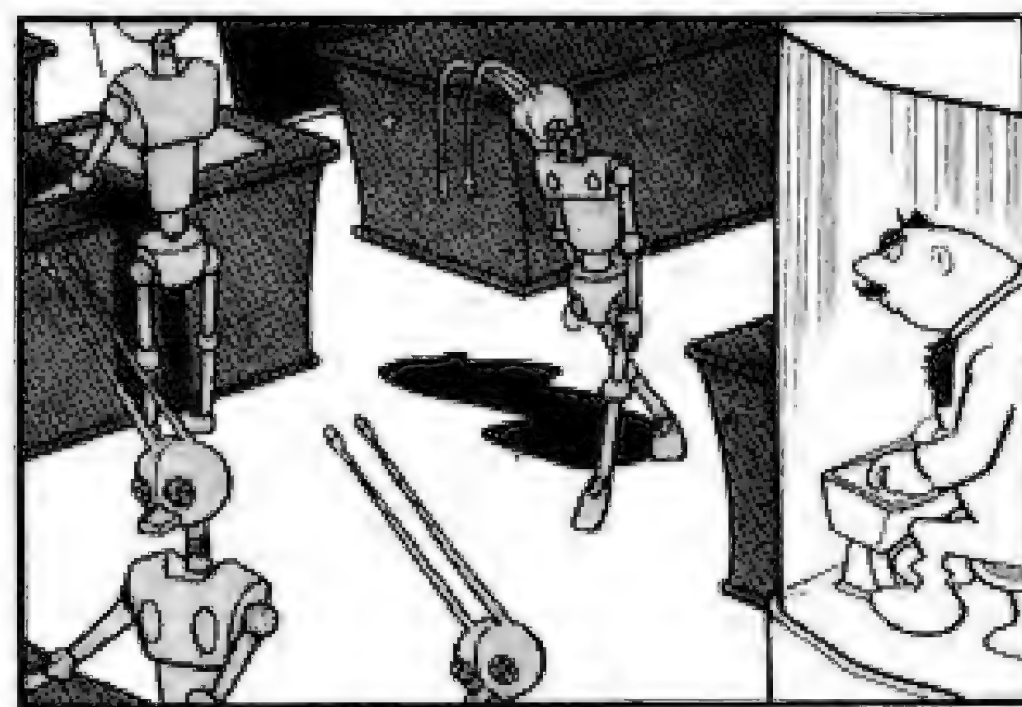
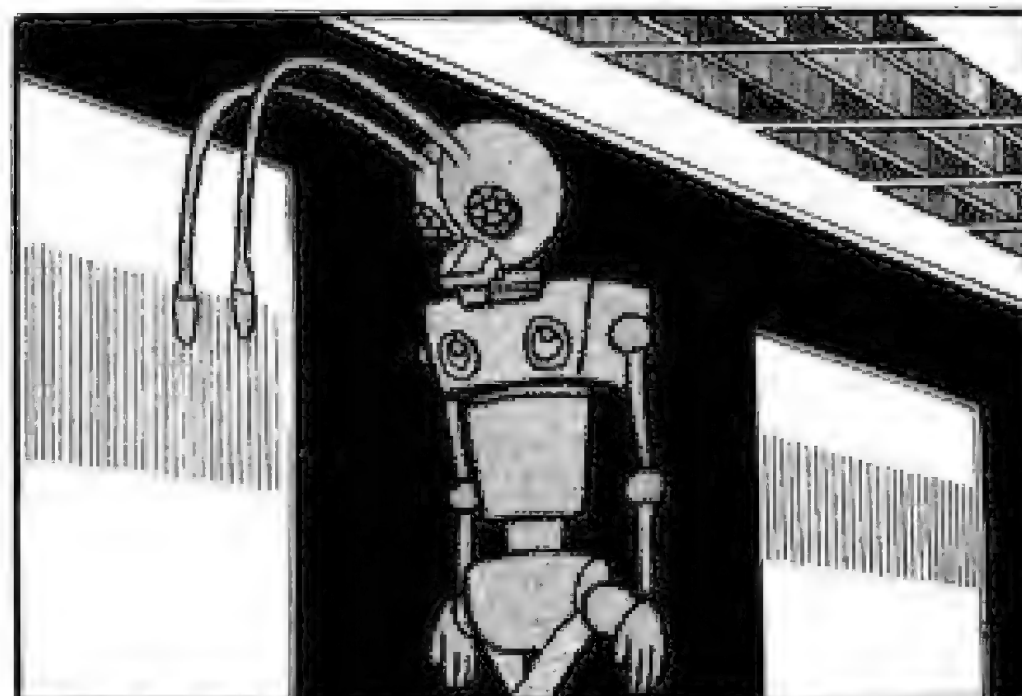
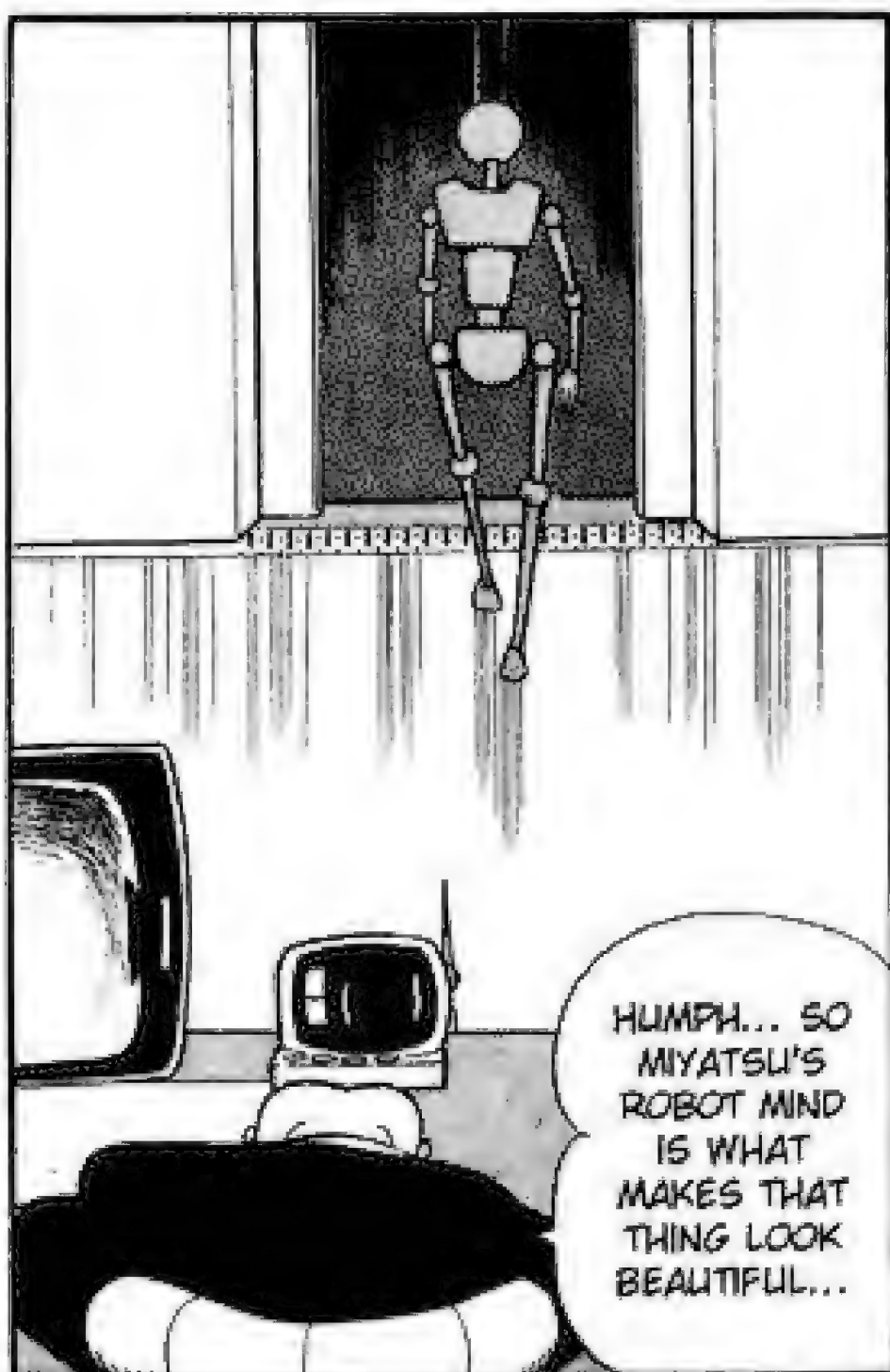
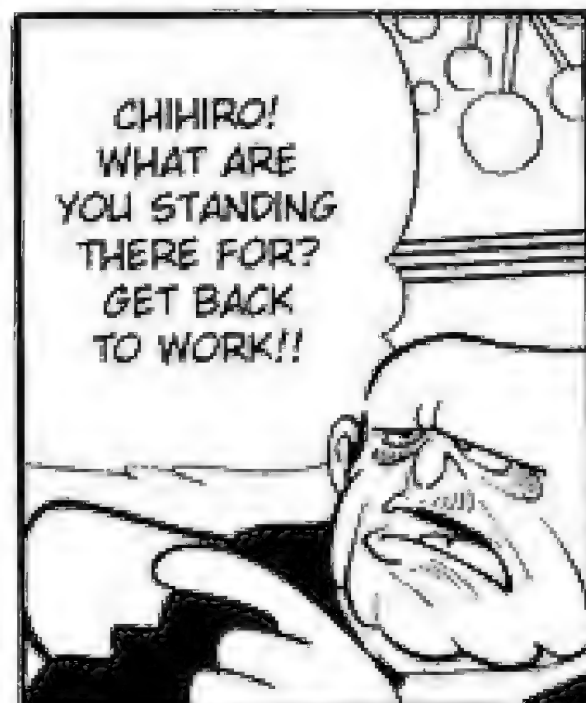
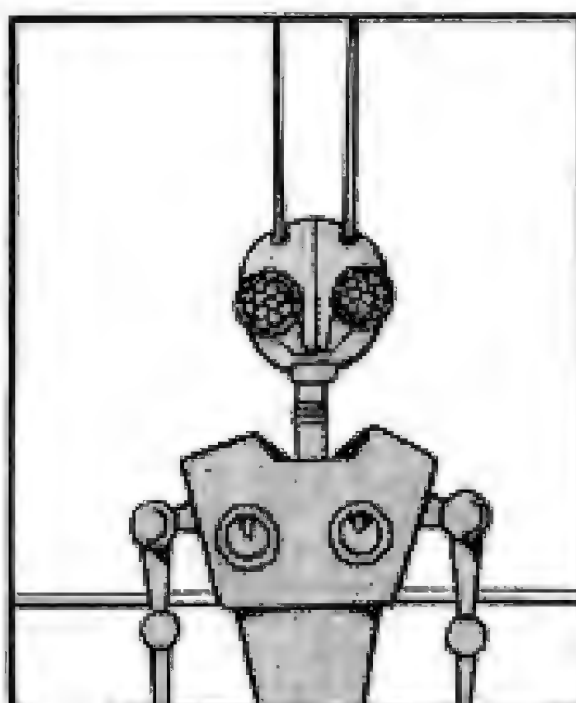
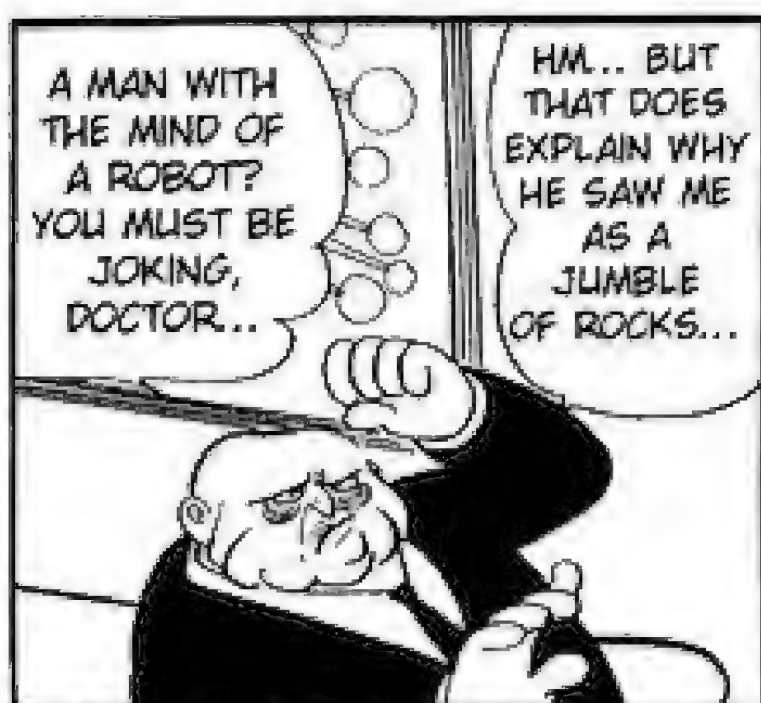
YES, I DID HEAR THAT THE OPERATION MADE MEDICAL HISTORY...

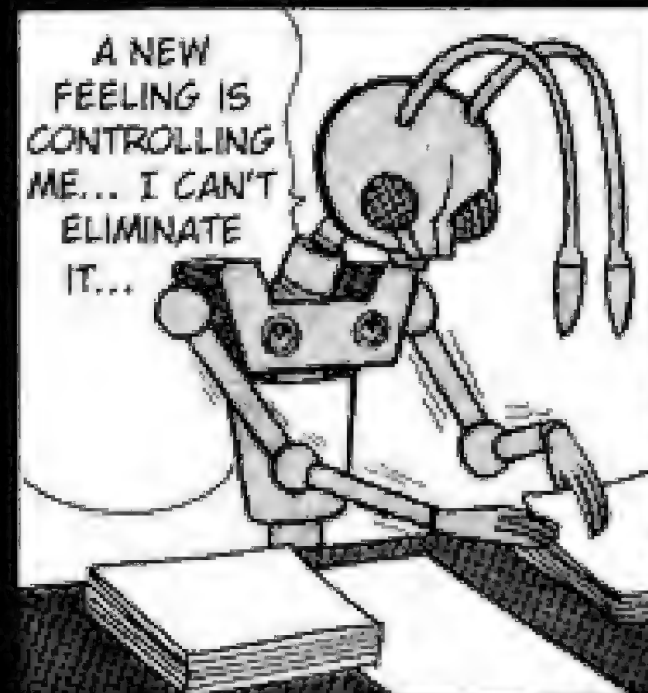
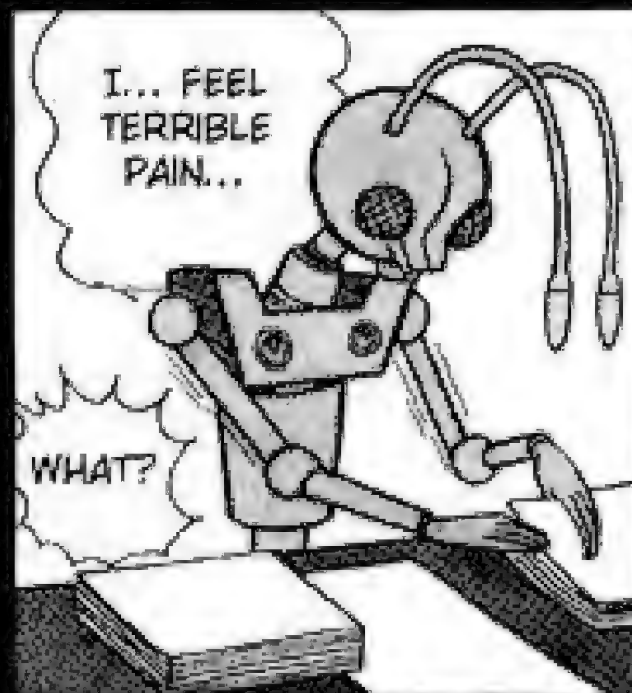
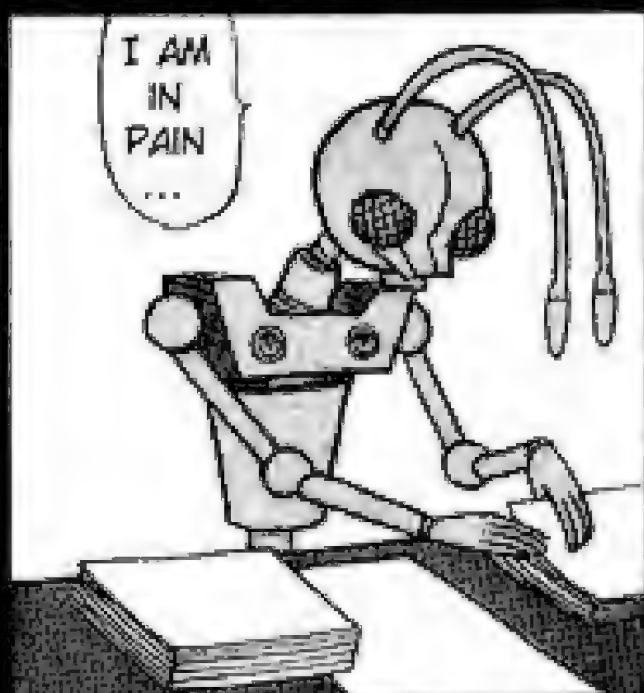
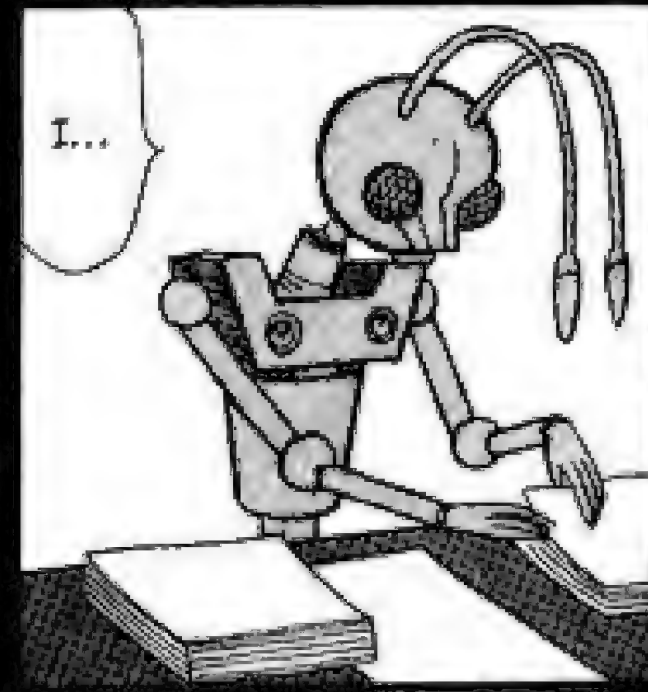
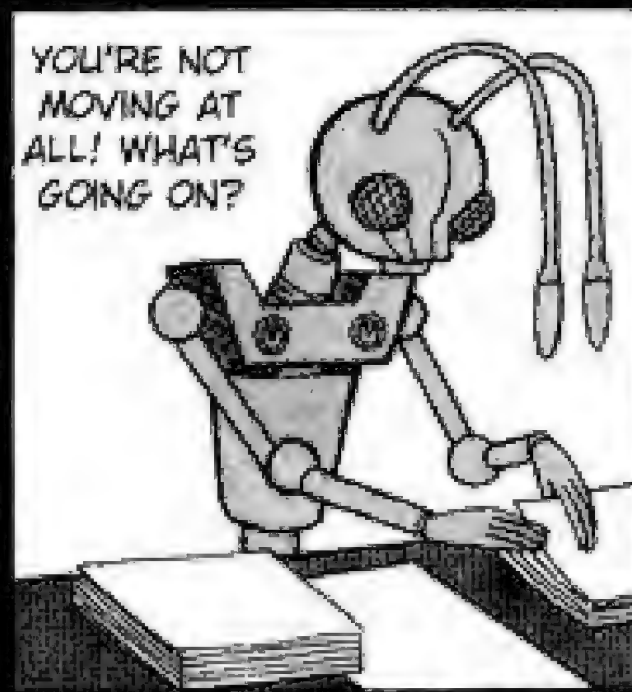
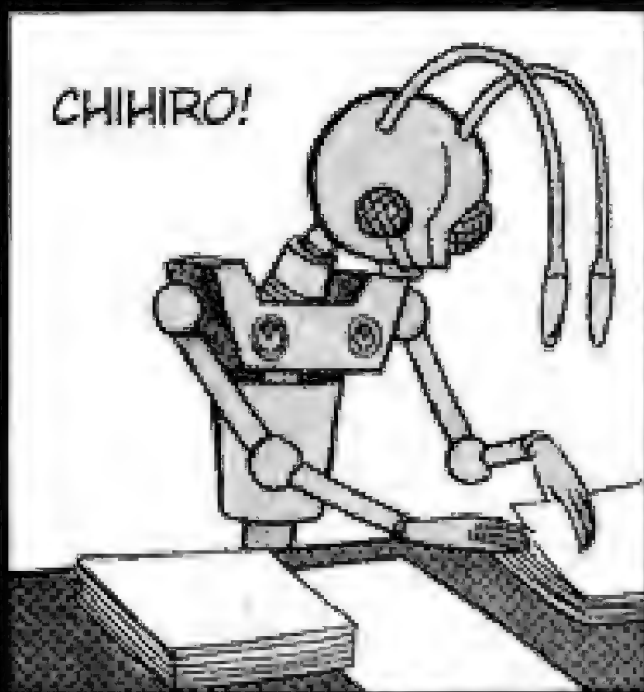
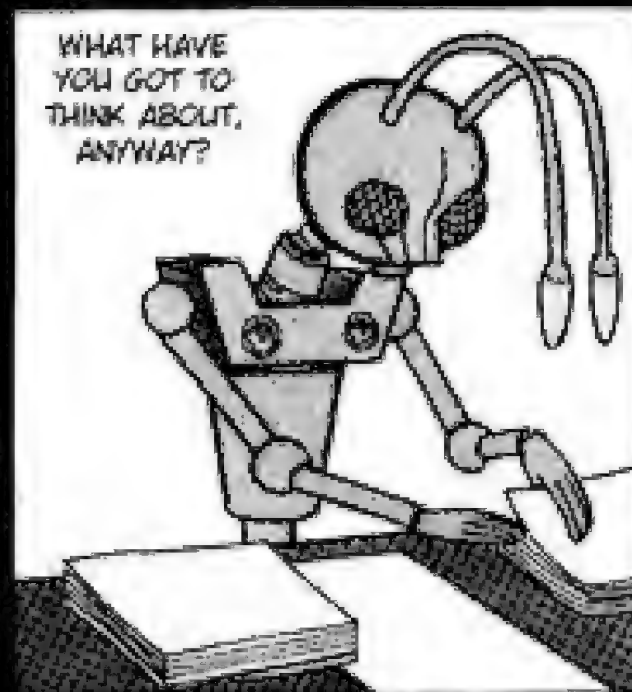
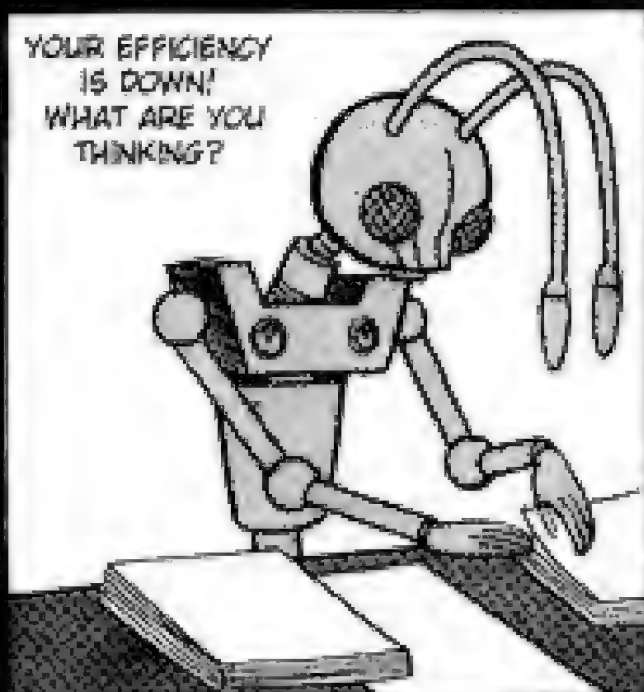
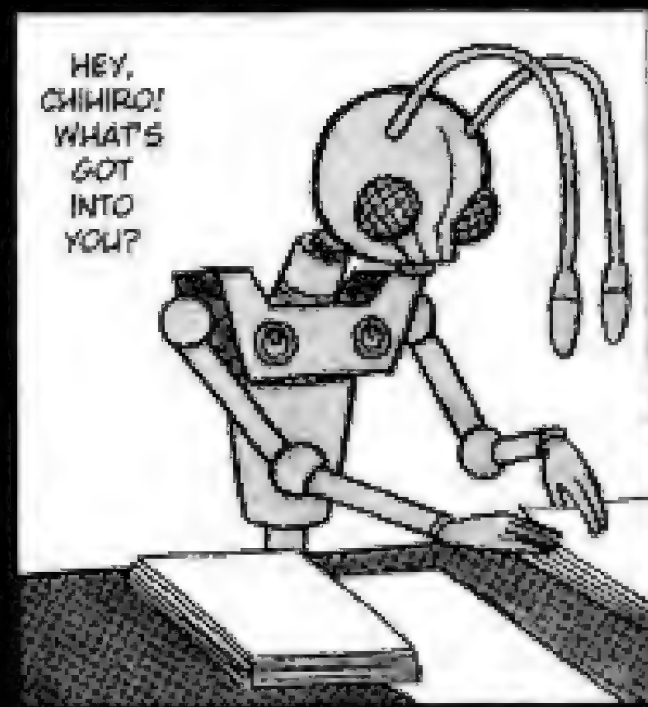
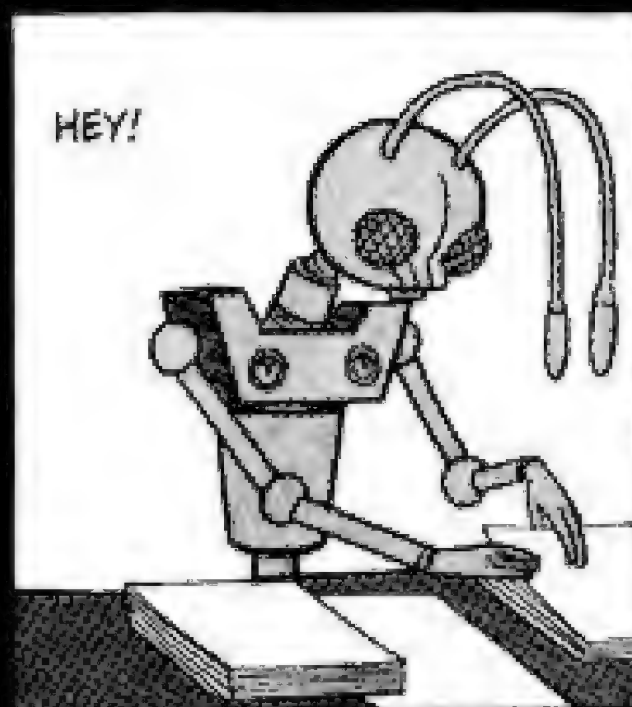
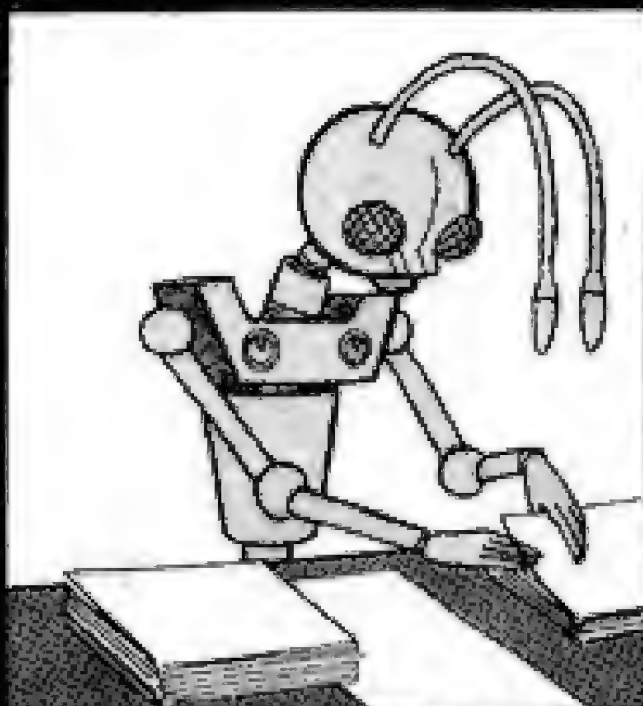


BUT EVER SINCE THEN...

ROBOTS APPEAR TO HIM AS HUMANS, WHILE HUMANS APPEAR TO HIM AS A JUMBLE OF MATTER.

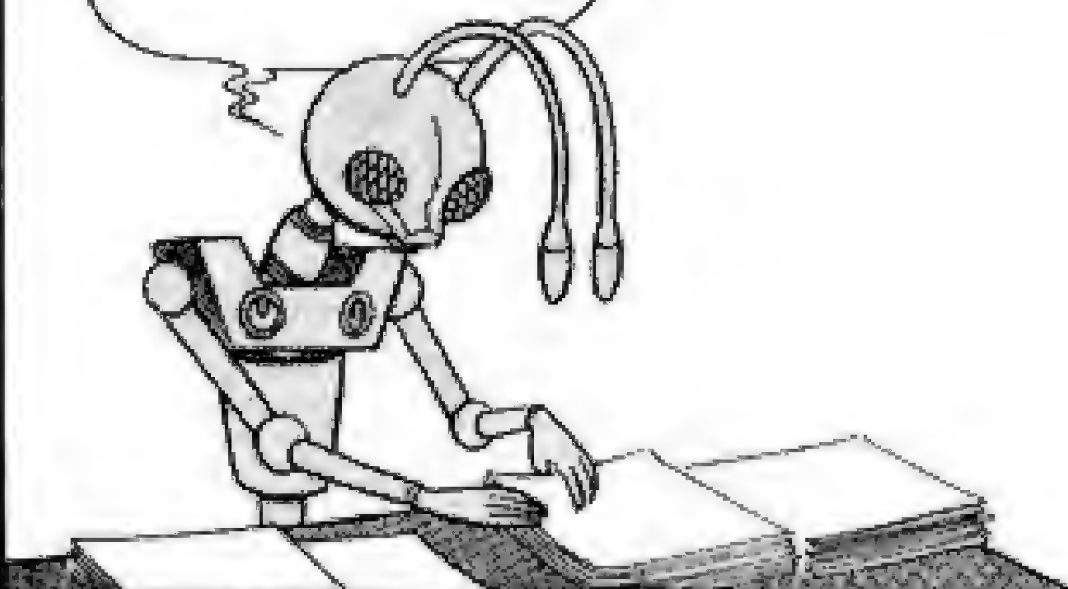


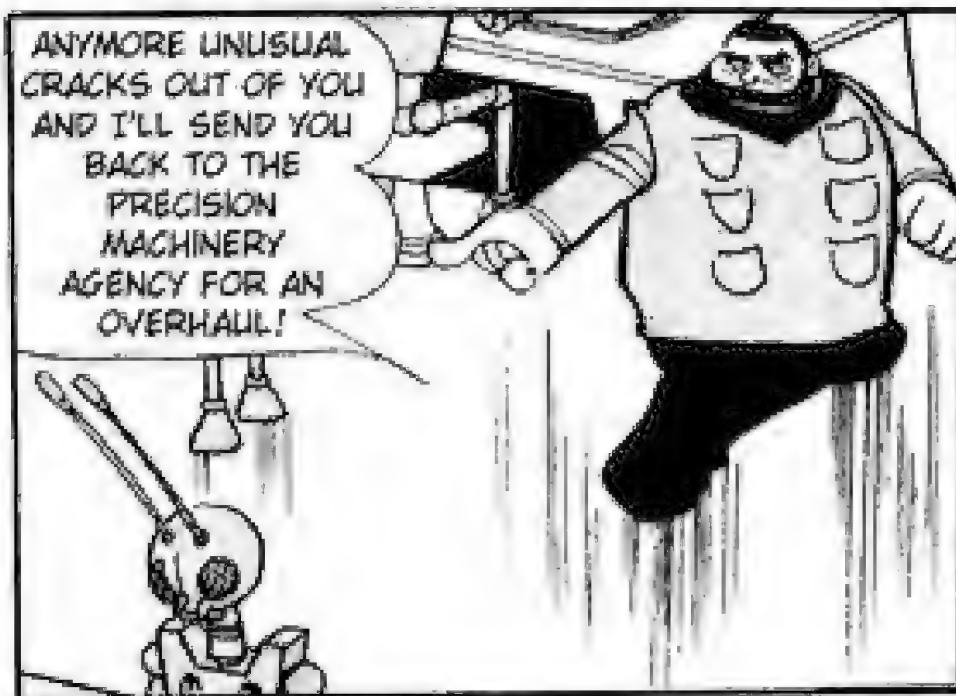
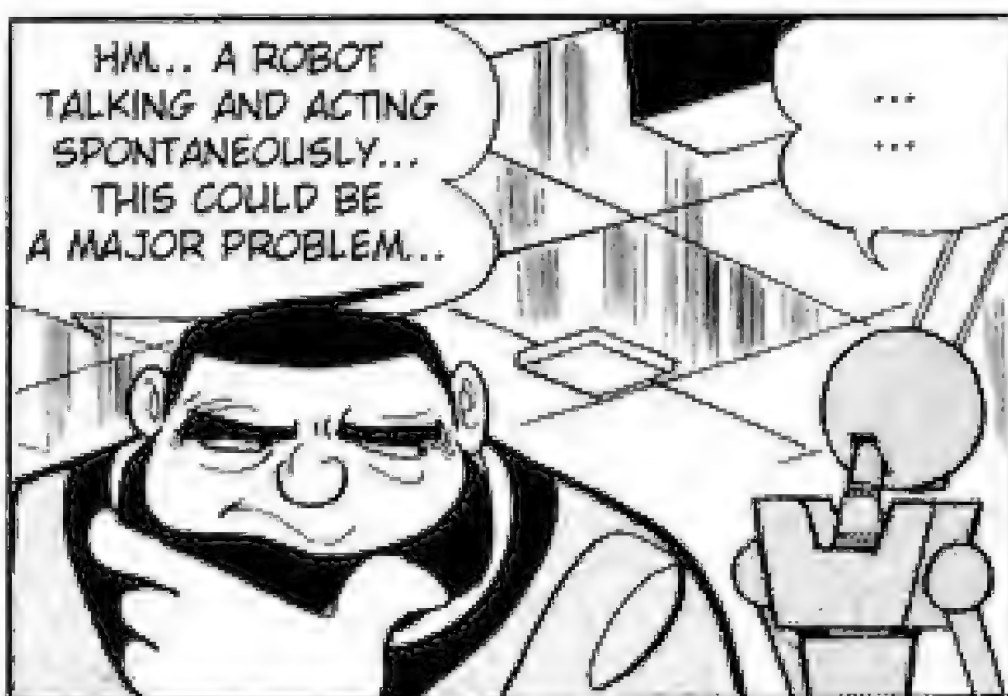
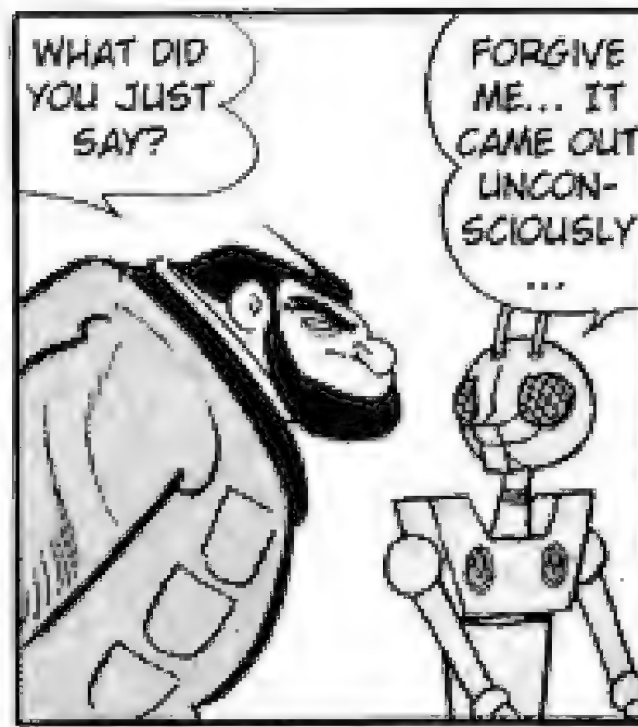
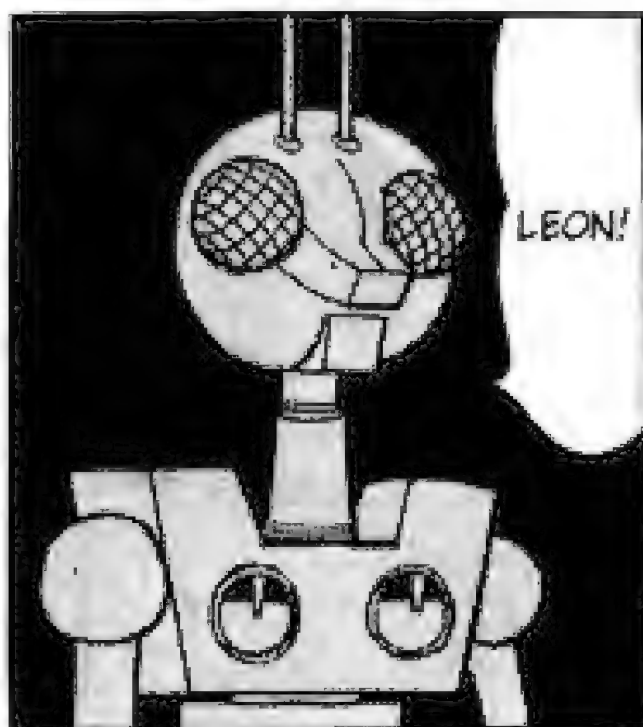


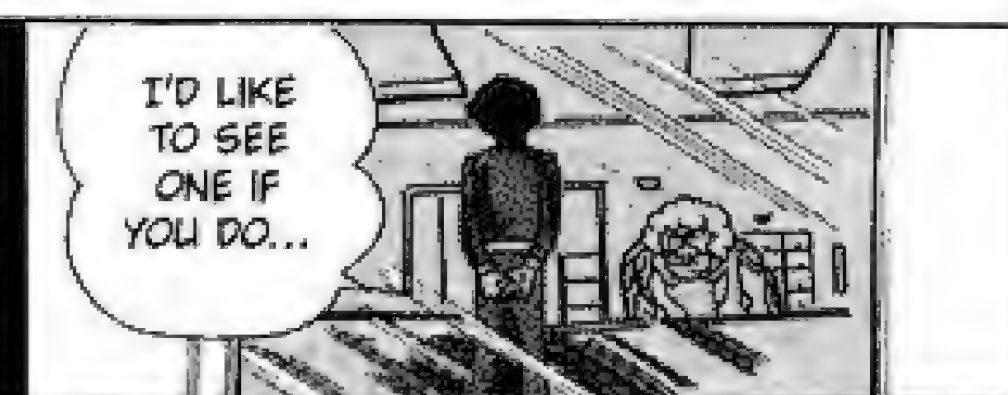
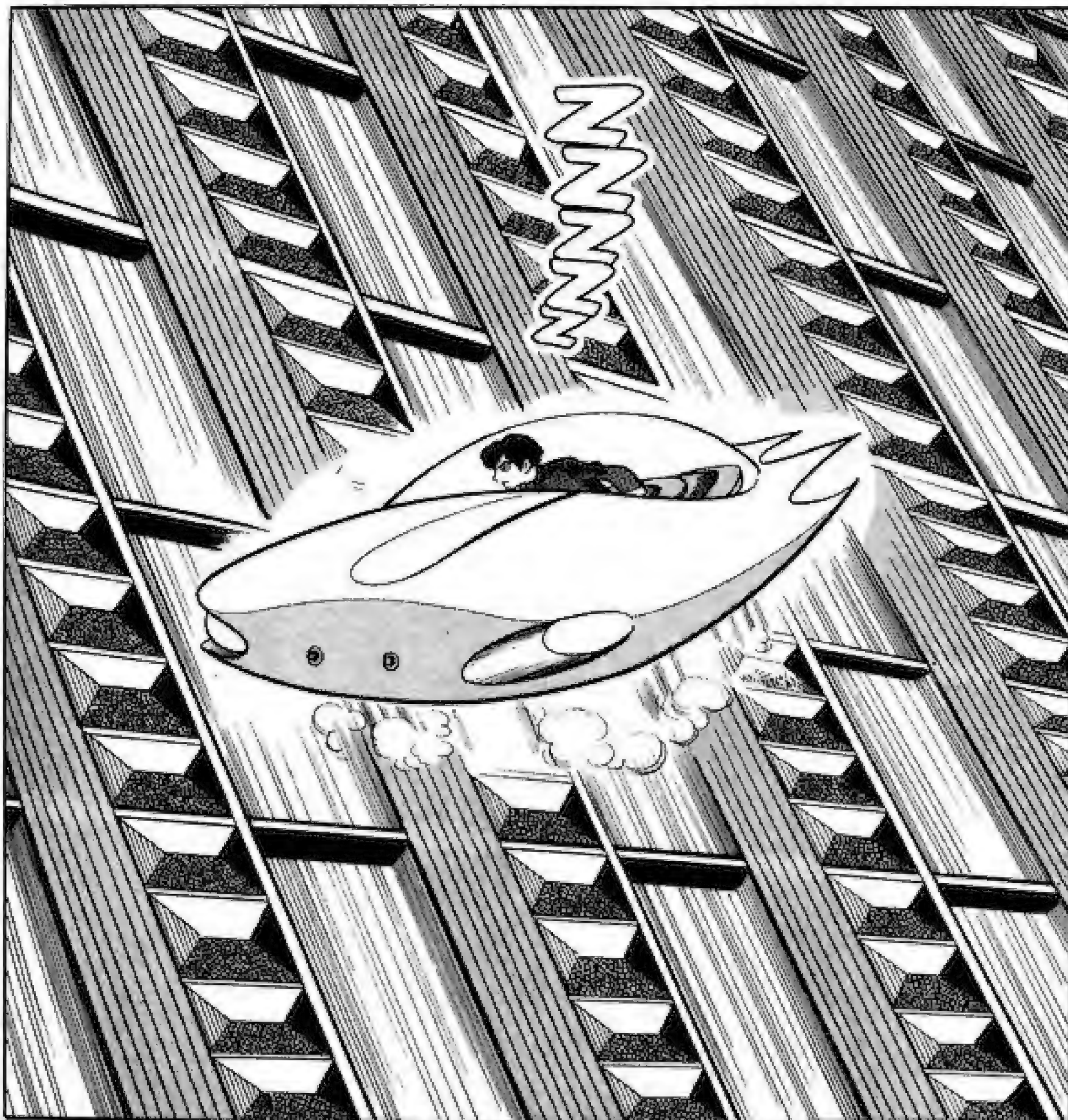




AN IRRATIONAL
FORCE HAS ENTERED
MY BRAIN AND IS
DISRUPTING MY WORK...
I CANNOT ELIMINATE
IT. I... CANNOT...
...CONTINUE...









WHY YOU'RE
LEON MIYATSU,
AREN'T YOU?
THE ONE WHO
WAS IN THE
NEWSPAPER
AND ON
TELEVISION!



...YES...



WHY I KNOW
ALL ABOUT YOU!
YOU DIED IN A
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT,
BUT WERE
MIRACULOUSLY
BROUGHT BACK
TO LIFE BY
THE DOCTORS.

AND YOU
WANT TO
RENT ONE
OF MY
ROOMS?

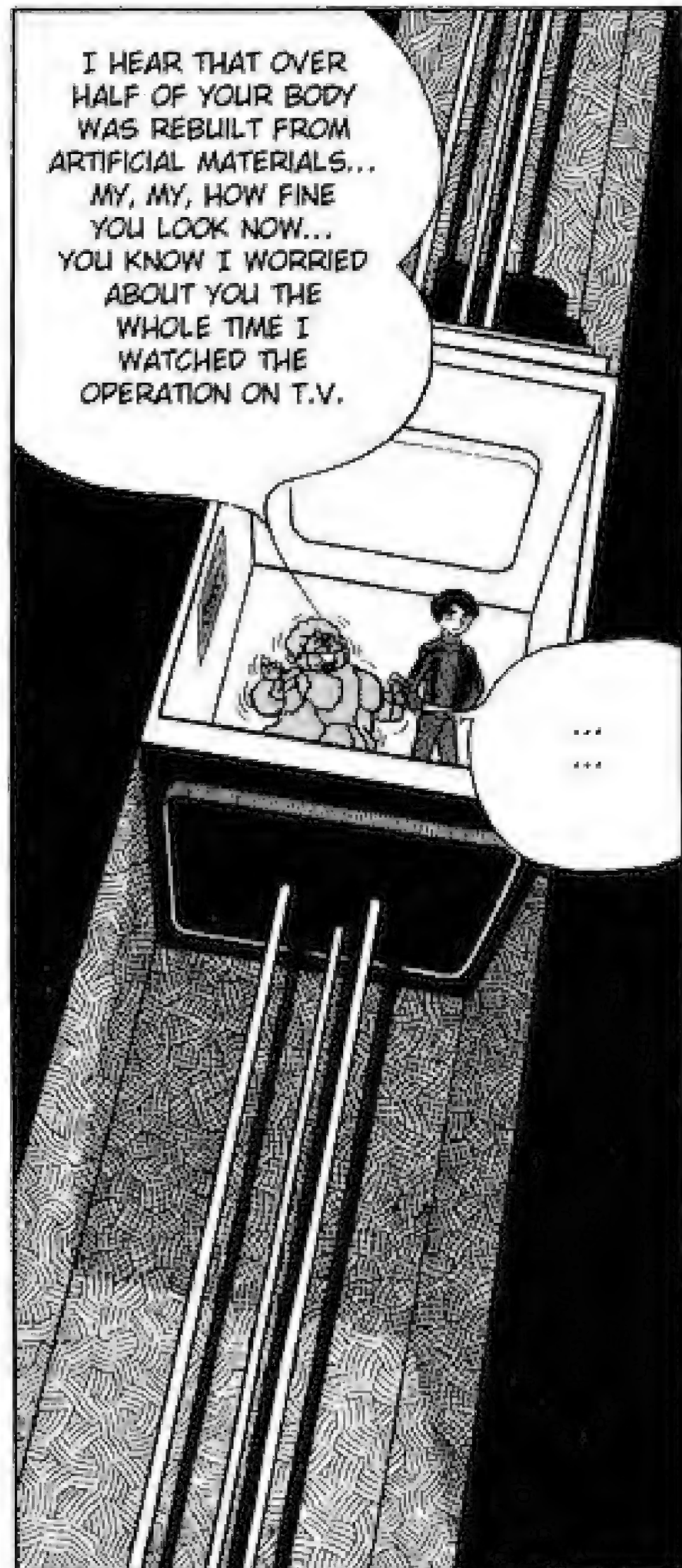


NO, I DON'T
WANT TO RENT
A ROOM... I
JUST WANT TO
SEE A CERTAIN
ONE...

OH...
WELL...
OF COURSE.
WHICH ONE
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO
SEE?



NO.
536.



I HEAR THAT OVER
HALF OF YOUR BODY
WAS REBUILT FROM
ARTIFICIAL MATERIALS...
MY, MY, HOW FINE
YOU LOOK NOW...
YOU KNOW I WORRIED
ABOUT YOU THE
WHOLE TIME I
WATCHED THE
OPERATION ON T.V.

...
...



WHY IT
JUST
HAPPENS
TO BE
VACANT
RIGHT
NOW...

I'M AFRAID IT MAY BE
RATHER SMALL, BUT IT
DOES HAVE A 3D TV
AND AN AUTOMATIC
KITCHEN... OH, YES, AND
IT HAS A FINE VIEW...
AND THE PRICE IS LOW...



WELL... SEE
SOMETHING
INTERESTING
OUT THERE?!

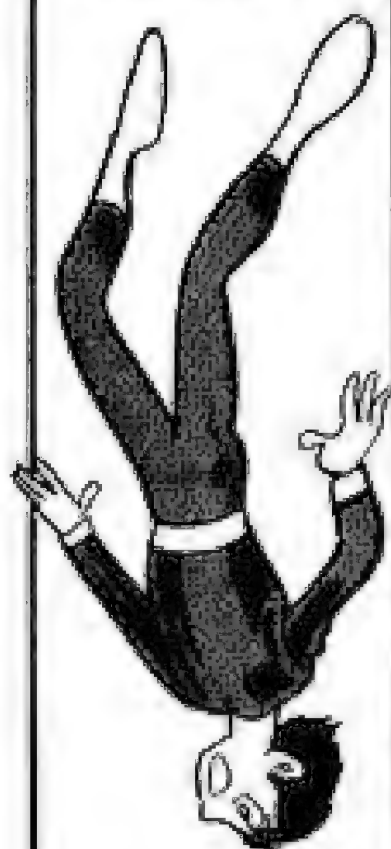


ONE YEAR
AGO...

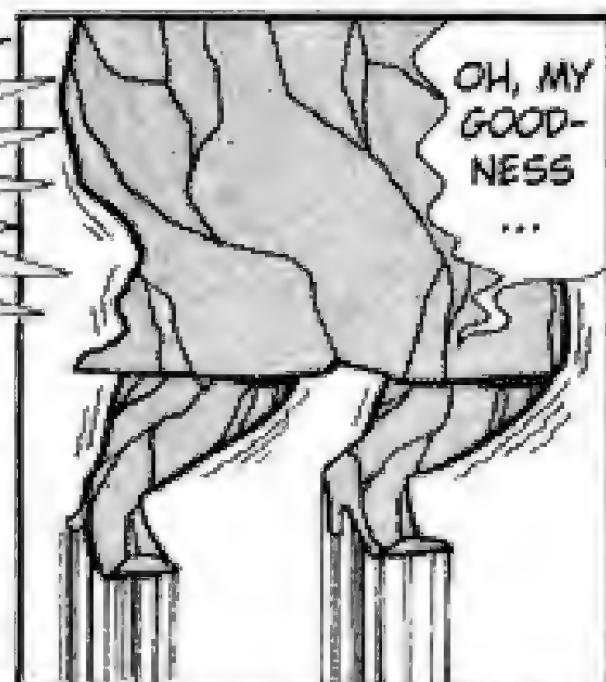
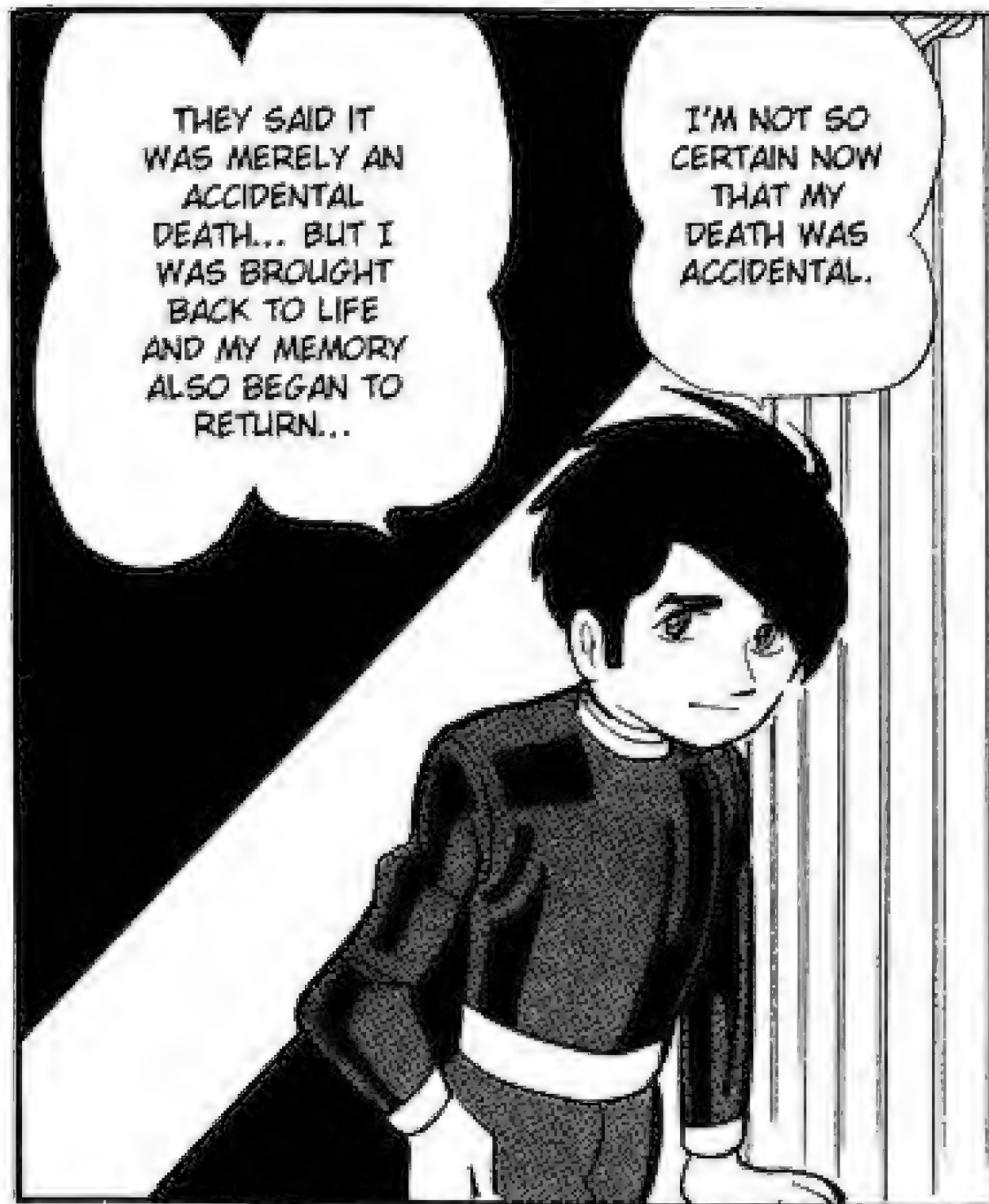


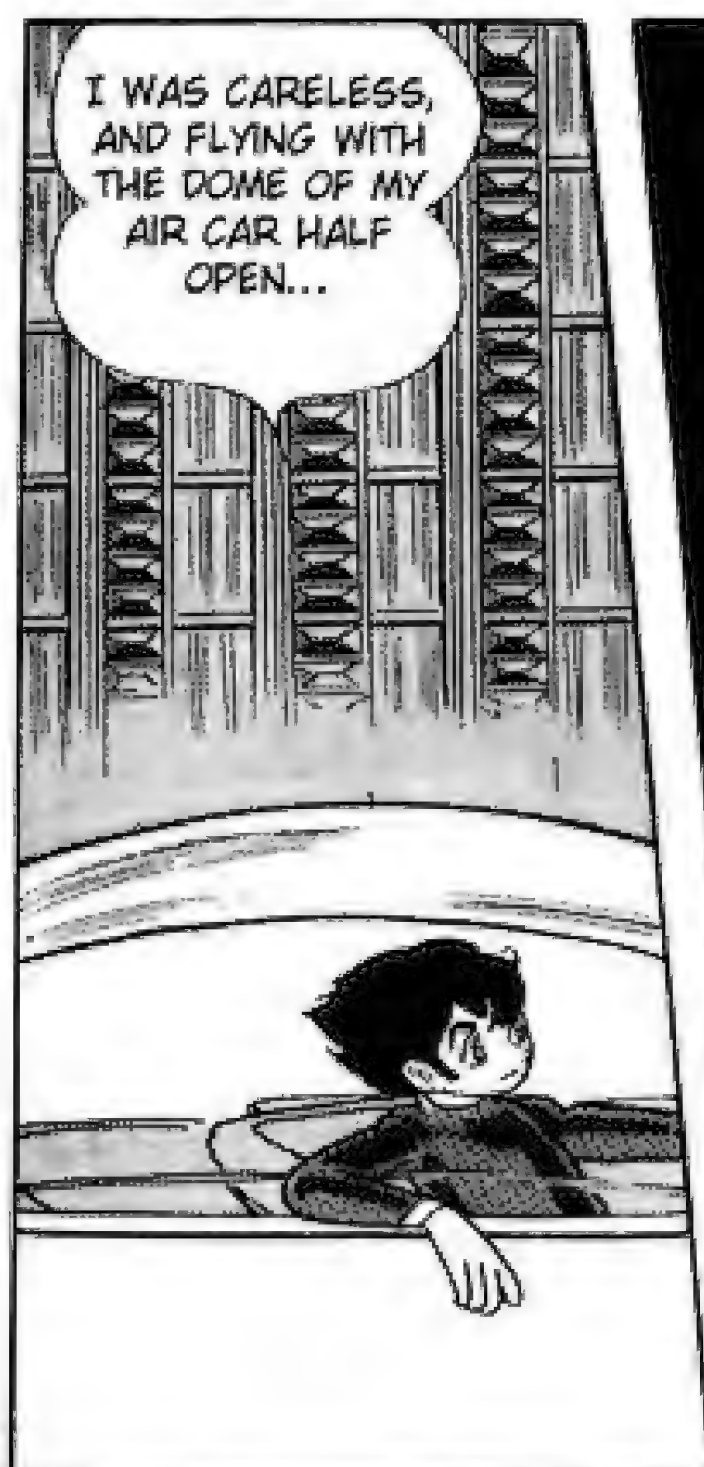


I FELL SUDDENLY FROM MY AIR CAR TO MY DEATH...



MY BODY WAS SMASHED ON THE PAVEMENT 20 METERS BELOW...





I WAS CARELESS,
AND FLYING WITH
THE DOME OF MY
AIR CAR HALF
OPEN...



THAT'S WHEN
I WAS SHOT!
FOR A SECOND
I WAS PARALYZED
AND THEN THROWN
FROM MY CAR...



IT MUST
HAVE BEEN A
TRANQUILIZER
GUN!



I WOULD
HAVE BEEN
AN EASY
TARGET
FROM
THIS
WINDOW.

BUT NO MATTER
HOW HARD I
THINK ABOUT IT...

I CAN'T
UNDERSTAND
WHY I WAS
KILLED...

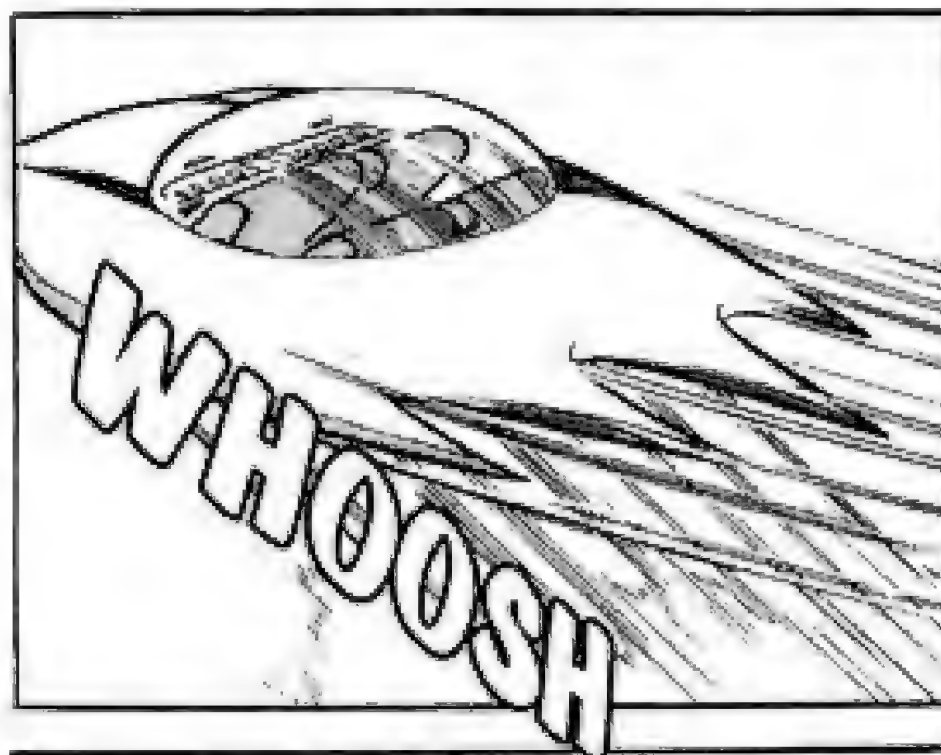
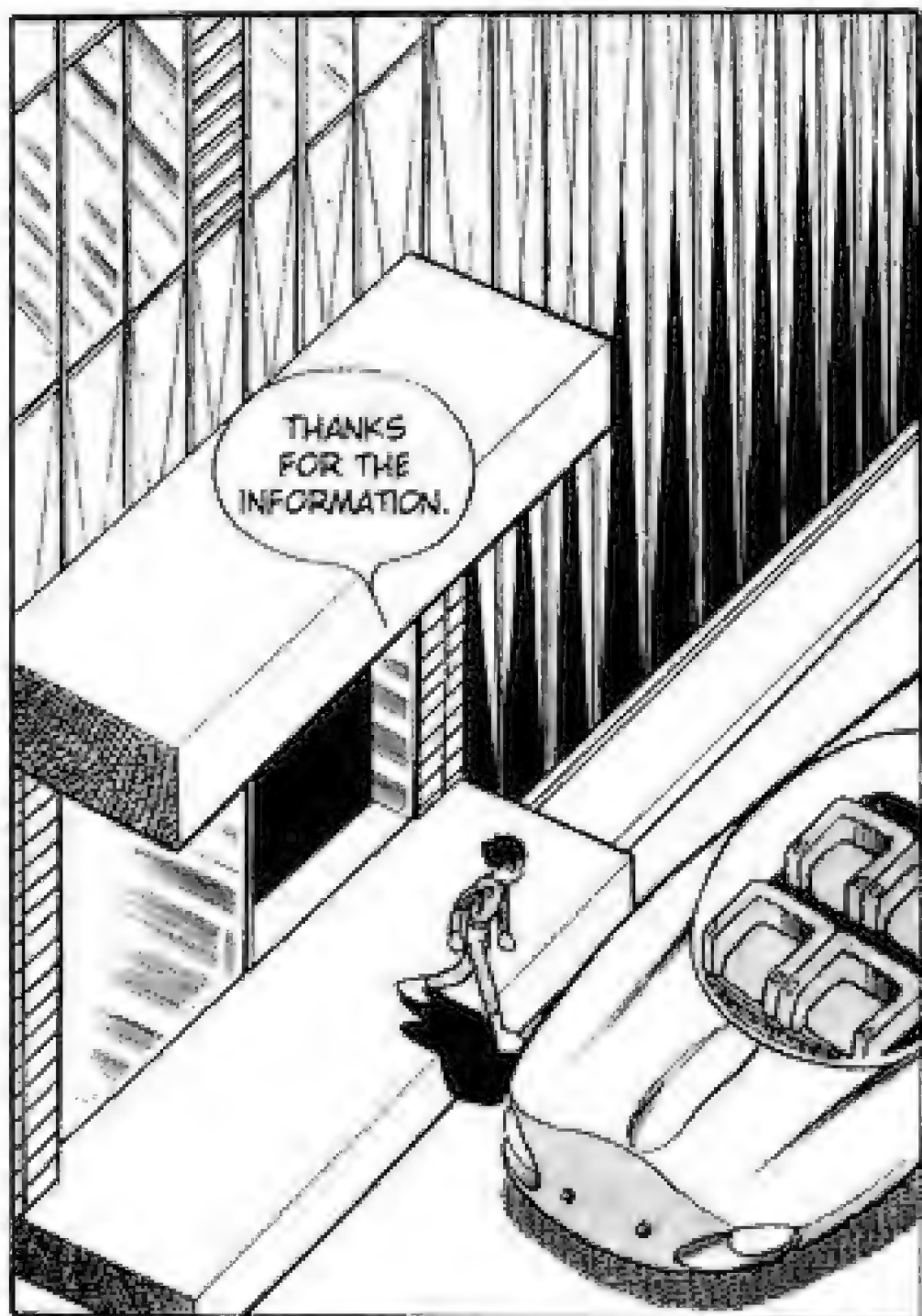
ANY MEMORY
I MIGHT
HAVE HAD
SEEMS TO
HAVE BEEN
ERASED...

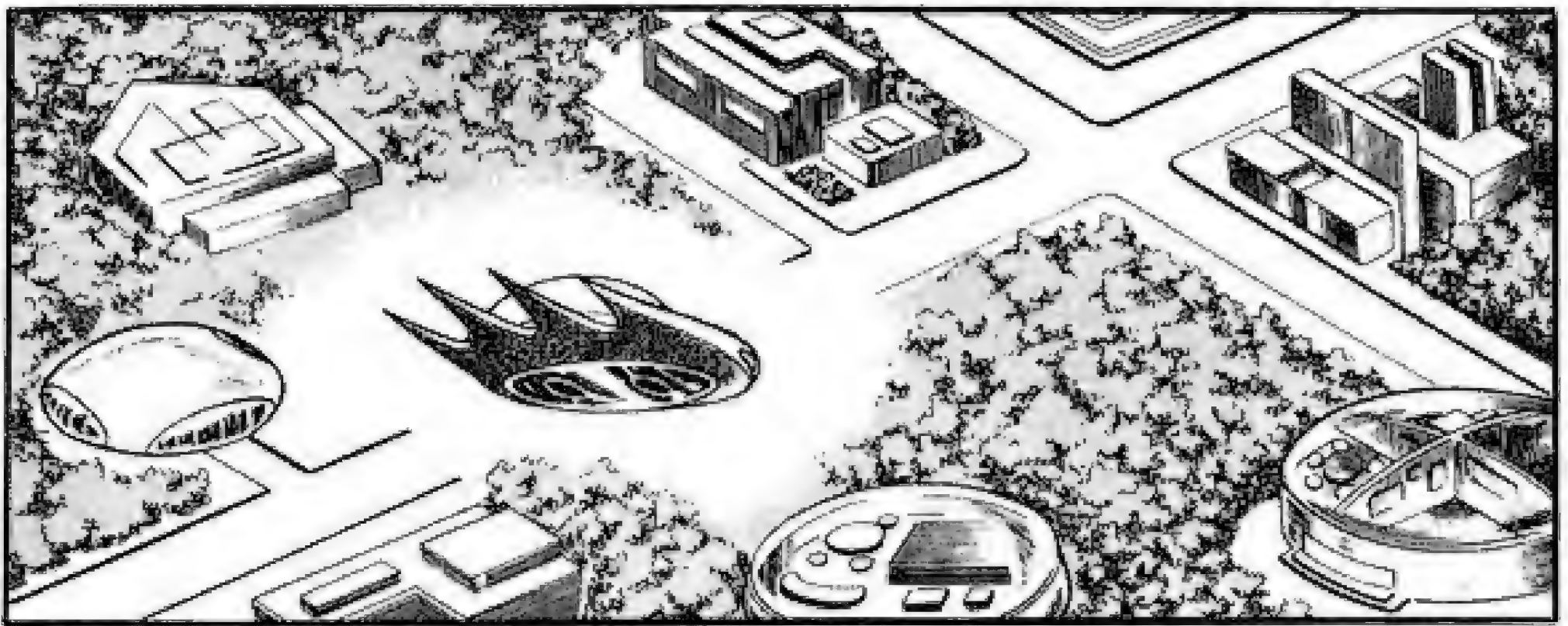


I'VE ASKED ALL MY RELATIVES
AND FAMILY IF THEY HAVE ANY
IDEA WHY I WAS KILLED AND THEY
ALL SAY NO... BUT I THINK
THEY'RE HIDING SOMETHING!



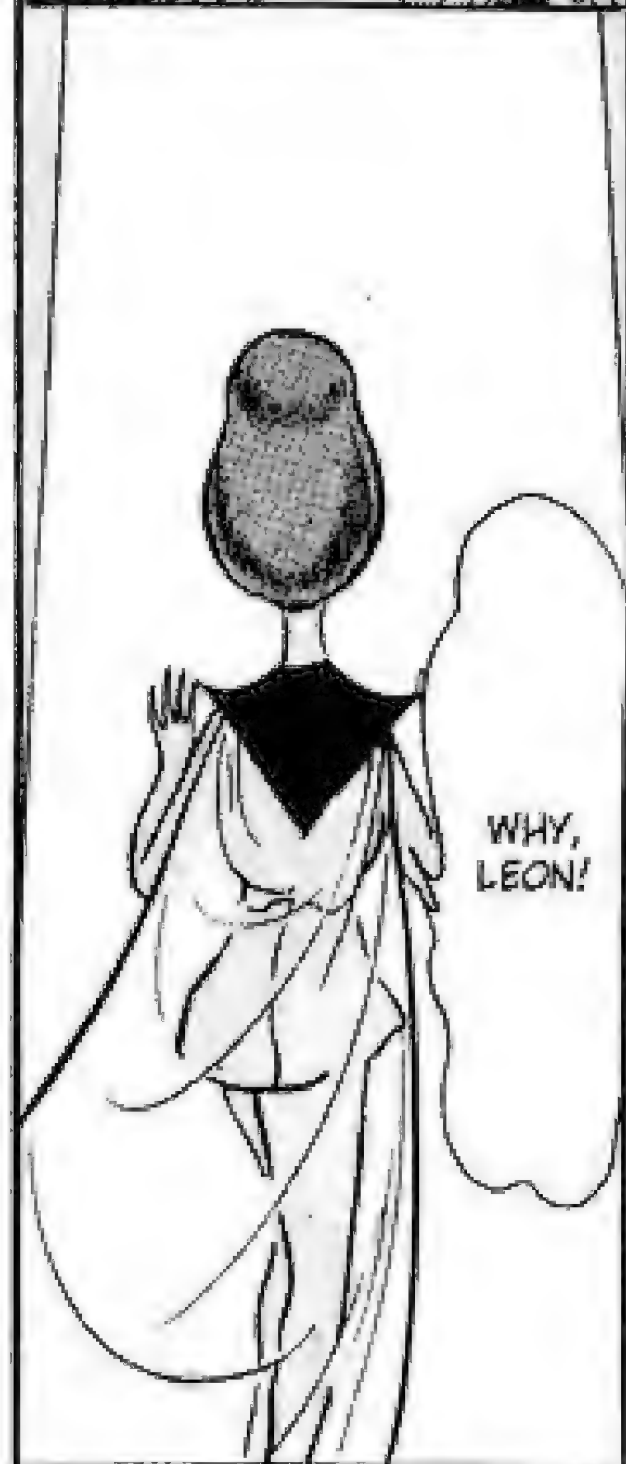
WHO
RENTED
THIS ROOM
A YEAR
AGO?!







HELLO,
MOTHER
...



WHY,
LEON!



WE'VE BEEN
WAITING SO
LONG FOR
YOU TO GET
WELL AND
COME
HOME...
DOES THE
HOUSE SEEM
THE SAME?
DOES
EVERYTHING
LOOK NORMAL
TO YOU?

SURE, MOM.
EVERYTHING'S
JUST AS I
REMEMBER IT.



I'M SO
PLEASED,
LEON, THAT
YOU'VE
RECOVERED
SO WELL
FROM THE
SURGERY...

AND I'M
SO GLAD
THAT I
FINALLY
LOOK
NORMAL
TO YOU.

...
...







BUT...
WHY IS
EVERYONE
HERE?!



AH...
PUFF, PUFF...
PLEASED TO
MEETCH YOU,
LEON...

I'M DA LAWYER
FOR YOUR FAMILY,
TAKAMATSU.



I HAD YOUR
RELATIVES ALL
GATHER HERE
SO WE COULD
...PUFF... DISHCUSS
DA PROBLEM OF
INHERITANCE
OF YOUR
ESTATE...

WE... ER...
HOPED... PUFF...
TO RESOLVE THISH
PROBLEM BEFORE
YOU GOT OUT OF
THE HOSPITAL,
BUT IT... ER...
TOOK MORE TIME
THAN WE THOUGHT.



INHERI-
TANCE?
ESTATE
?!?!

WHAT
ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?



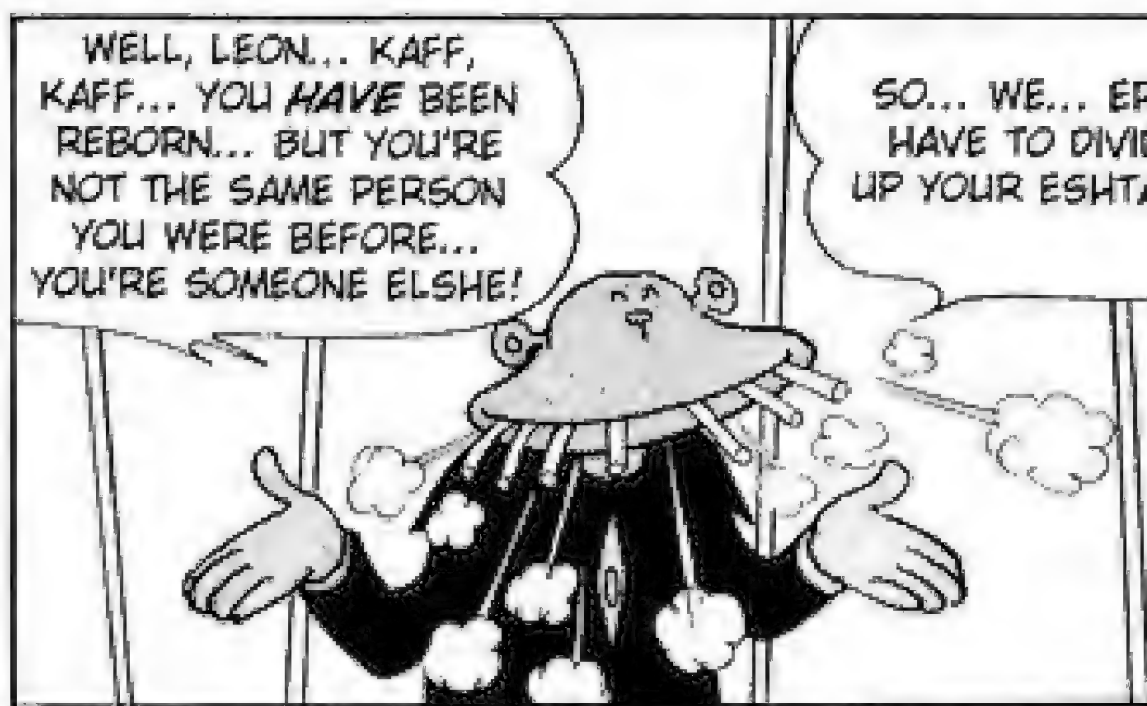
LISTEN, I'M
ALIVE, NOT
DEAD!

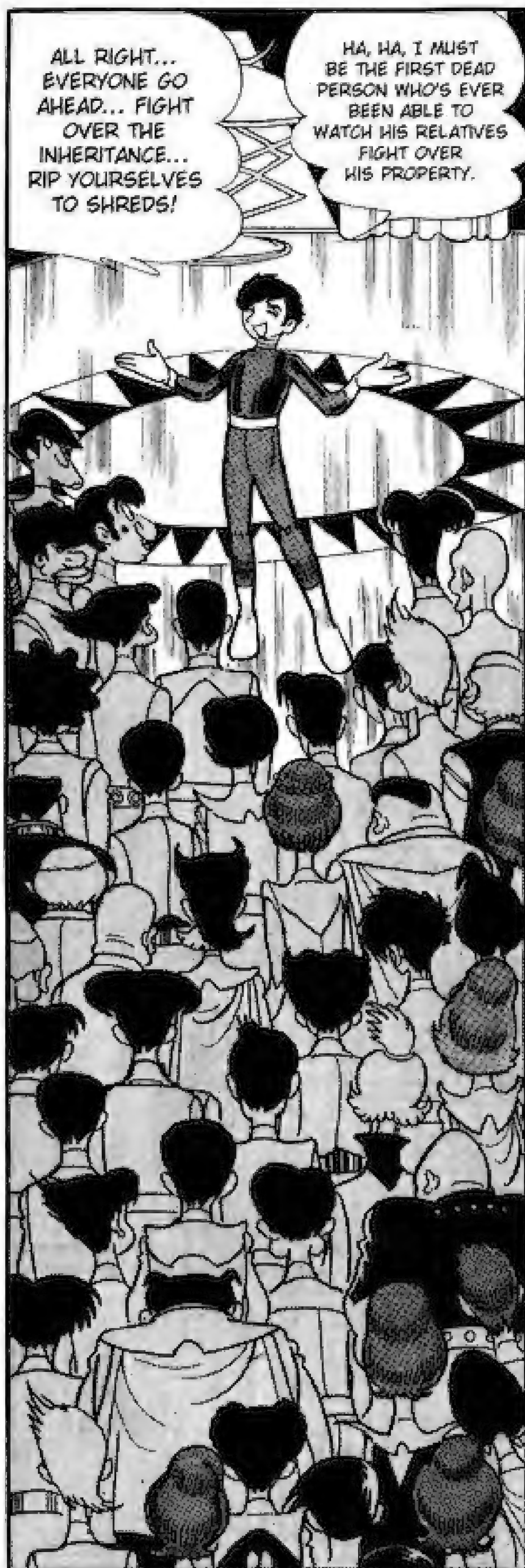
I'M RIGHT HERE
IN THE FLESH
BEFORE YOUR
VERY EYES! WHAT
DO YOU THINK
I AM, A GHOST?



PUFF...
WELL...
LEGALLY
SPEAKING,
YOU ARE
A GHOSHT.

WHAT?!





ALL RIGHT...
EVERYONE GO
AHEAD... FIGHT
OVER THE
INHERITANCE...
RIP YOURSELVES
TO SHREDS!

HA, HA, I MUST
BE THE FIRST DEAD
PERSON WHO'S EVER
BEEN ABLE TO
WATCH HIS RELATIVES
FIGHT OVER
HIS PROPERTY.



LEON...
PLEASE...
WATCH
YOUR
WORDS...



SO YOU
THINK
THEY'RE
RIGHT TOO,
MOTHER?

BUT I
GUESS
LEGALLY
YOU'RE
NOT MY
MOTHER
NOW, ARE
YOU?



NO, LEON...
YOU ARE
MY SON...
NO MATTER
WHAT!



BUT
THAT'S NOT
IMPORTANT
...

I CAME HERE
TODAY FOR A
COMPLETELY
DIFFERENT
REASON
...



I
KNOW THAT
I WAS
MURDERED!

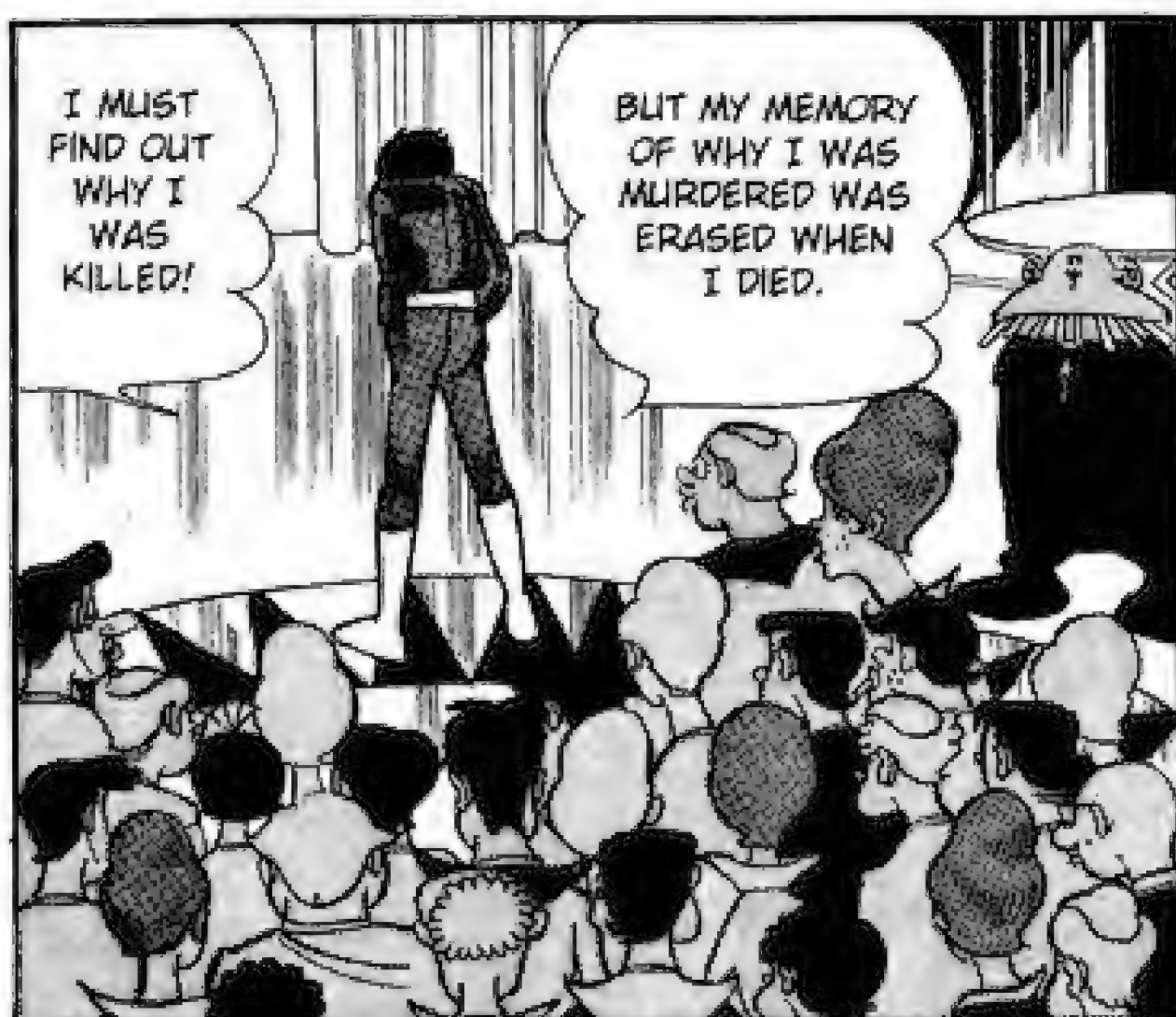
I DIDN'T DIE
IN A TRAFFIC
ACCIDENT!
SOMEONE
KILLED ME!



AN
AMERICAN
NAMED
TOWADA!

HAVE ANY
OF YOU
EVER HEARD
OF HIM?!

WITH A NAME LIKE
THAT, HE'S PROBABLY
OF JAPANESE DESCENT...
SOMEONE I KNOW!!



I MUST
FIND OUT
WHY I
WAS
KILLED!

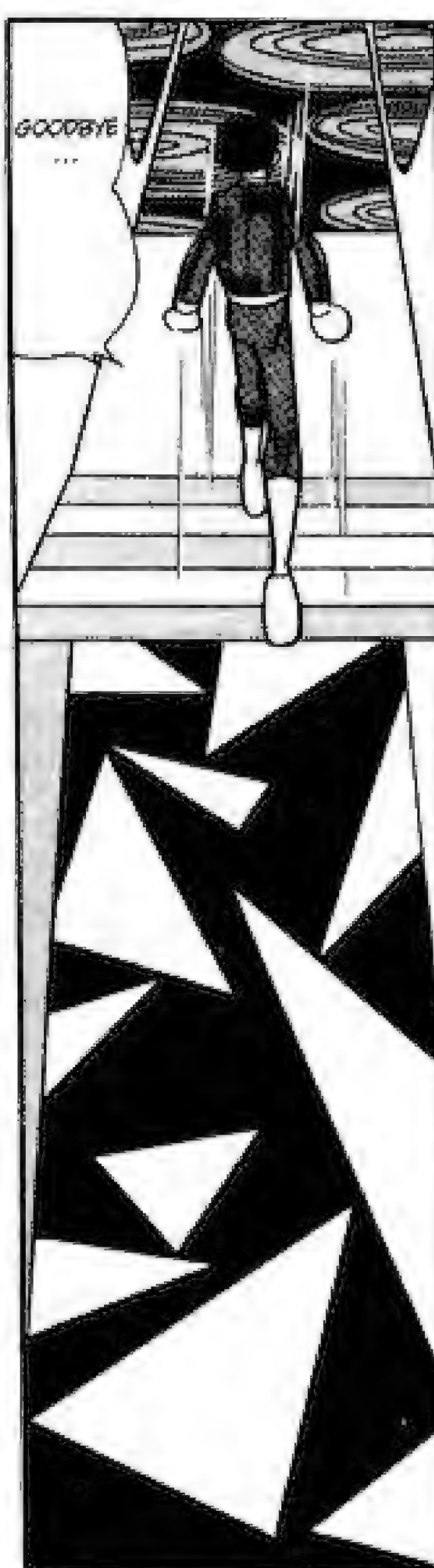
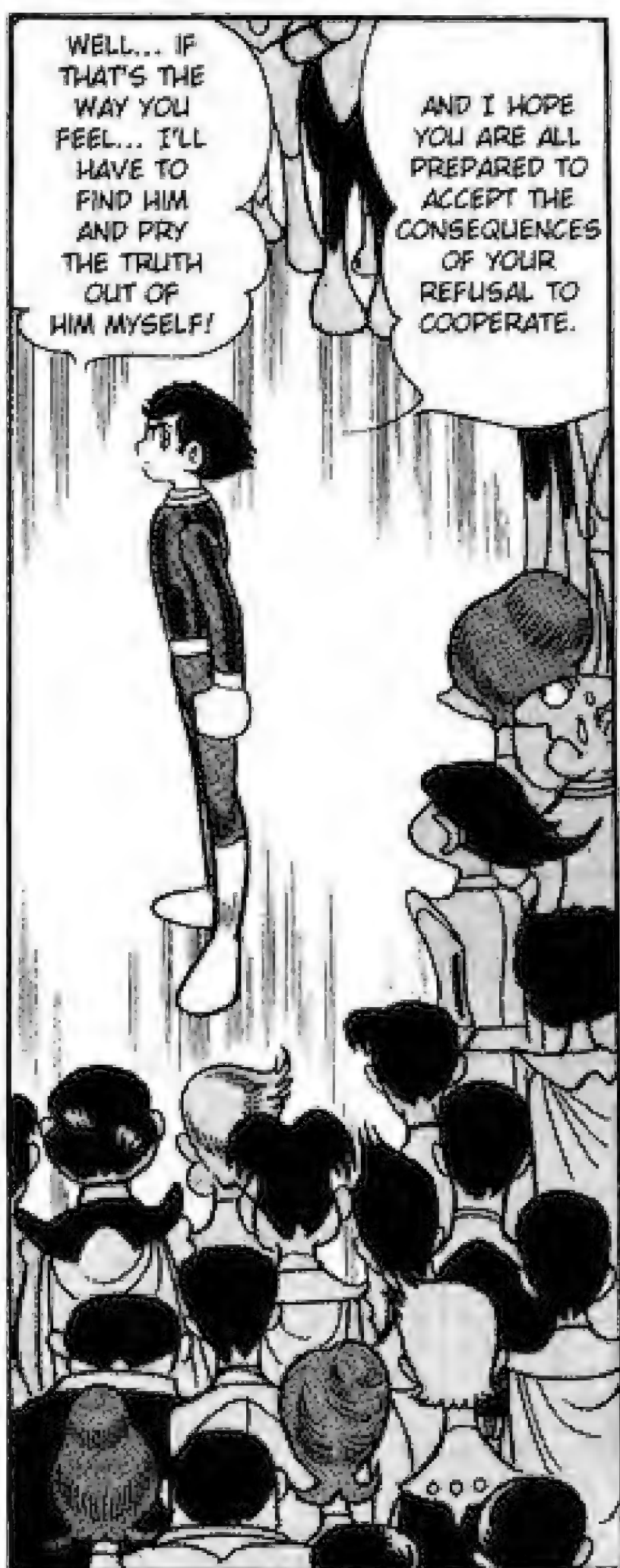
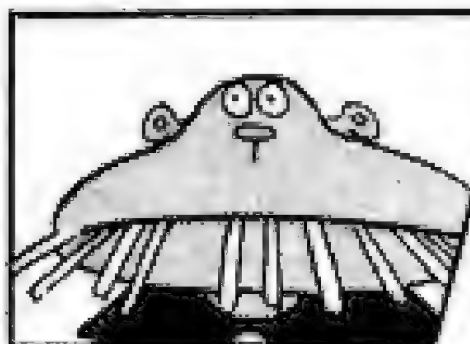
BUT MY MEMORY
OF WHY I WAS
MURDERED WAS
ERASED WHEN
I DIED.

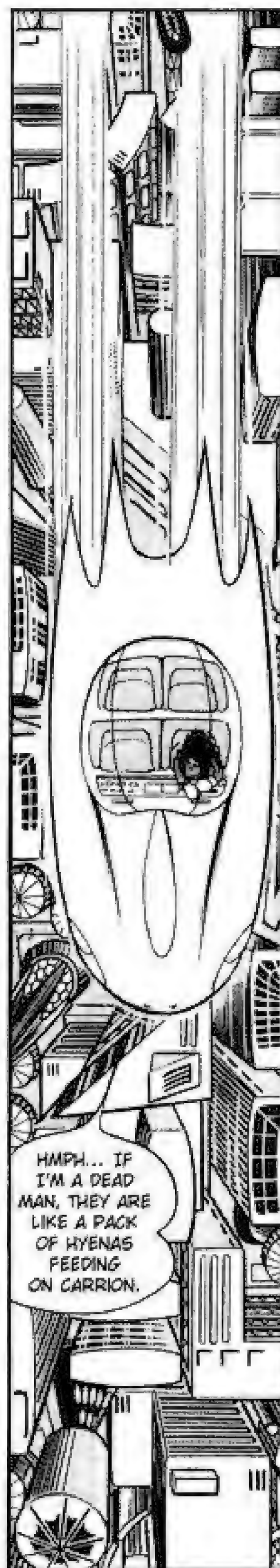
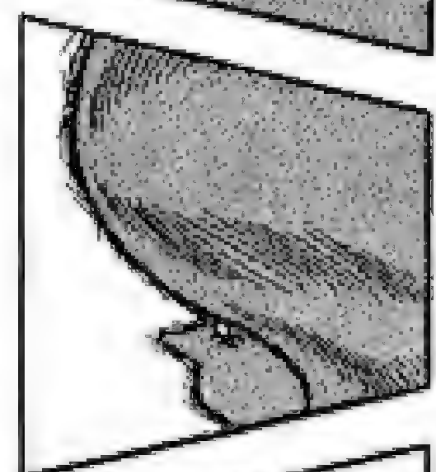
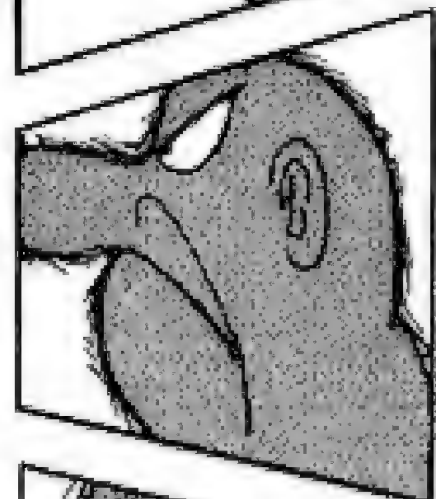
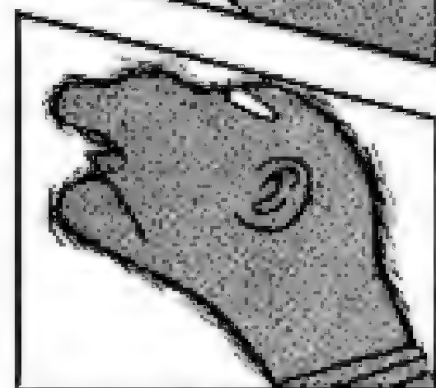
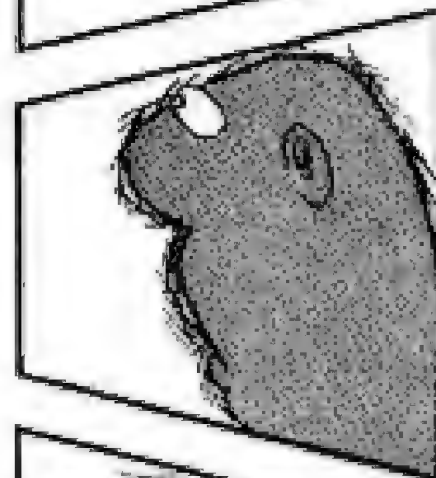
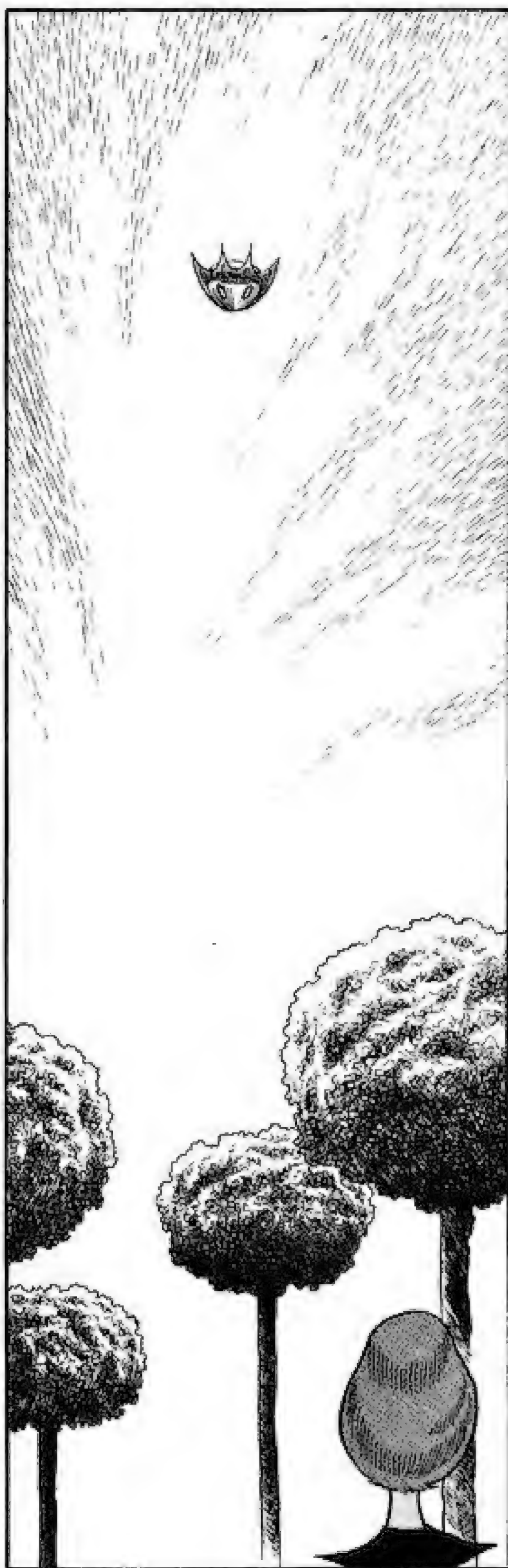


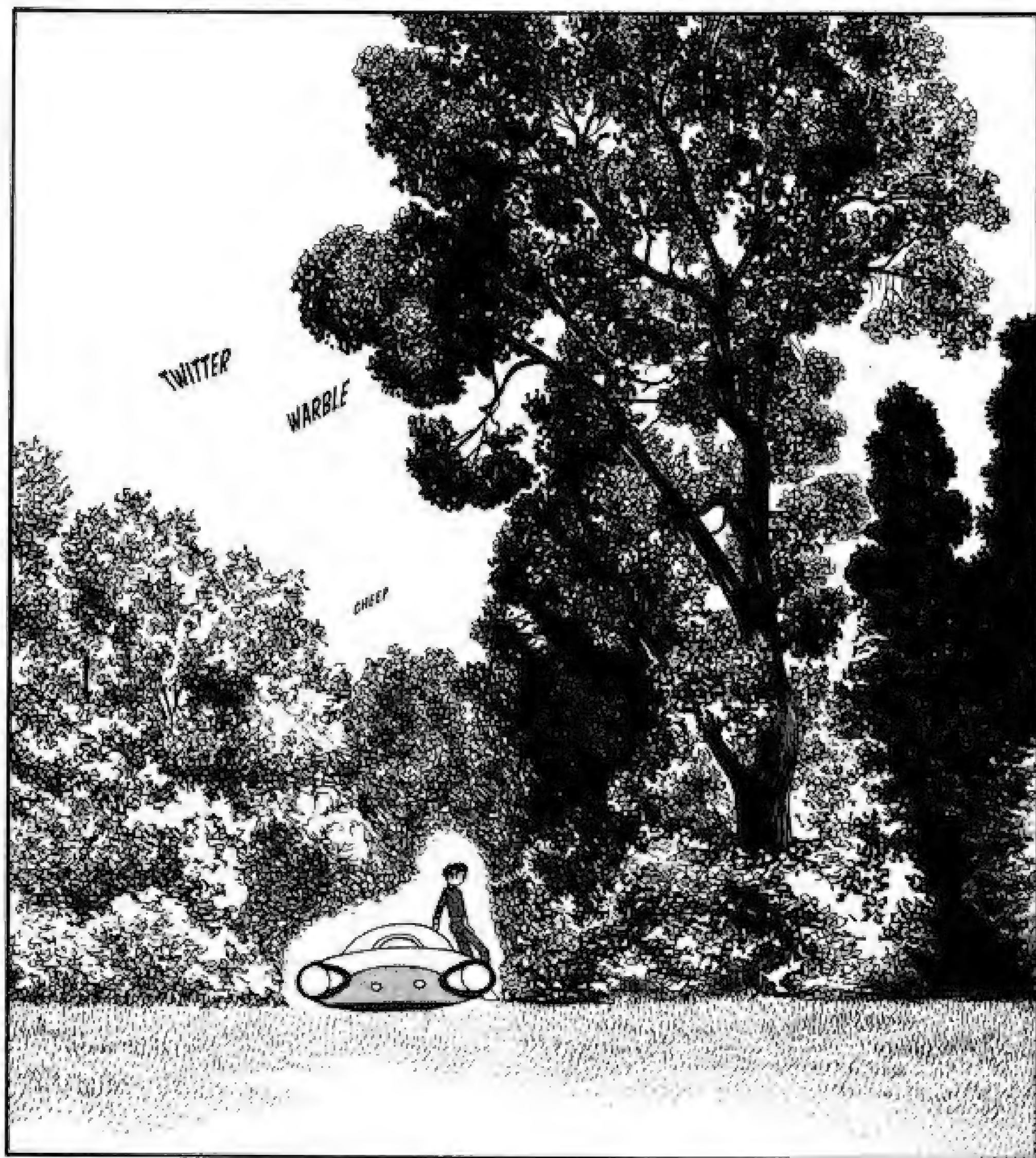
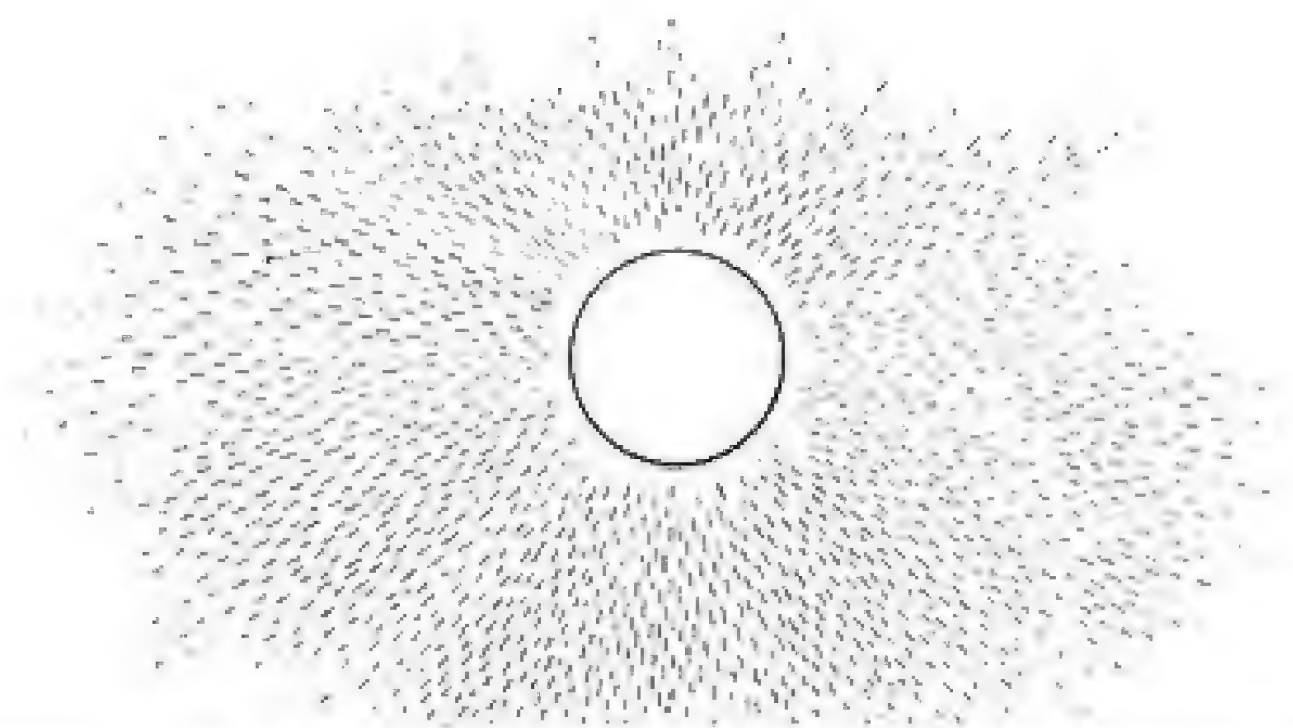
BUT I'LL
FIND THIS
TOWADA,
WHOEVER
HE IS!

I'LL
FIND
HIM!

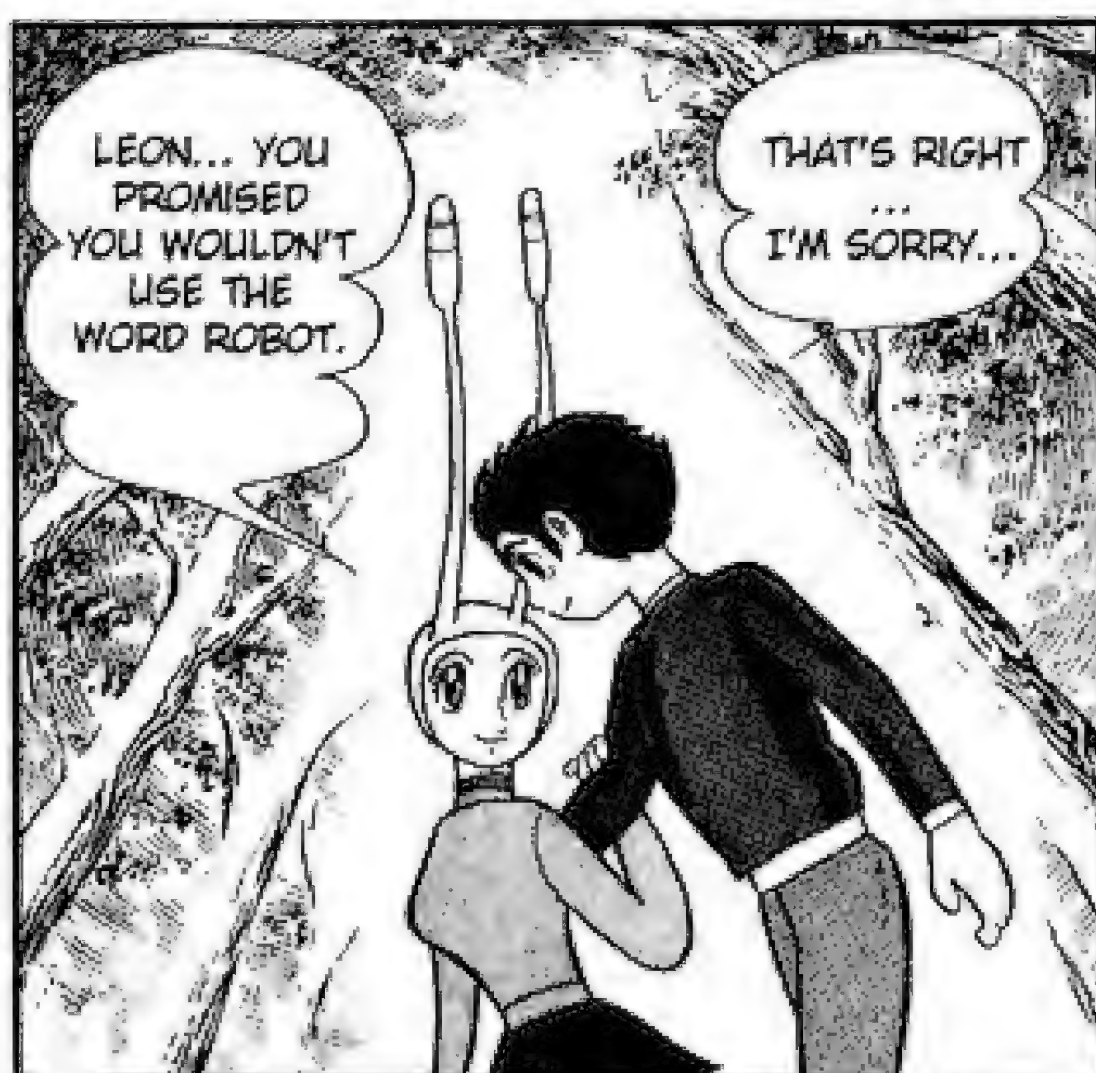
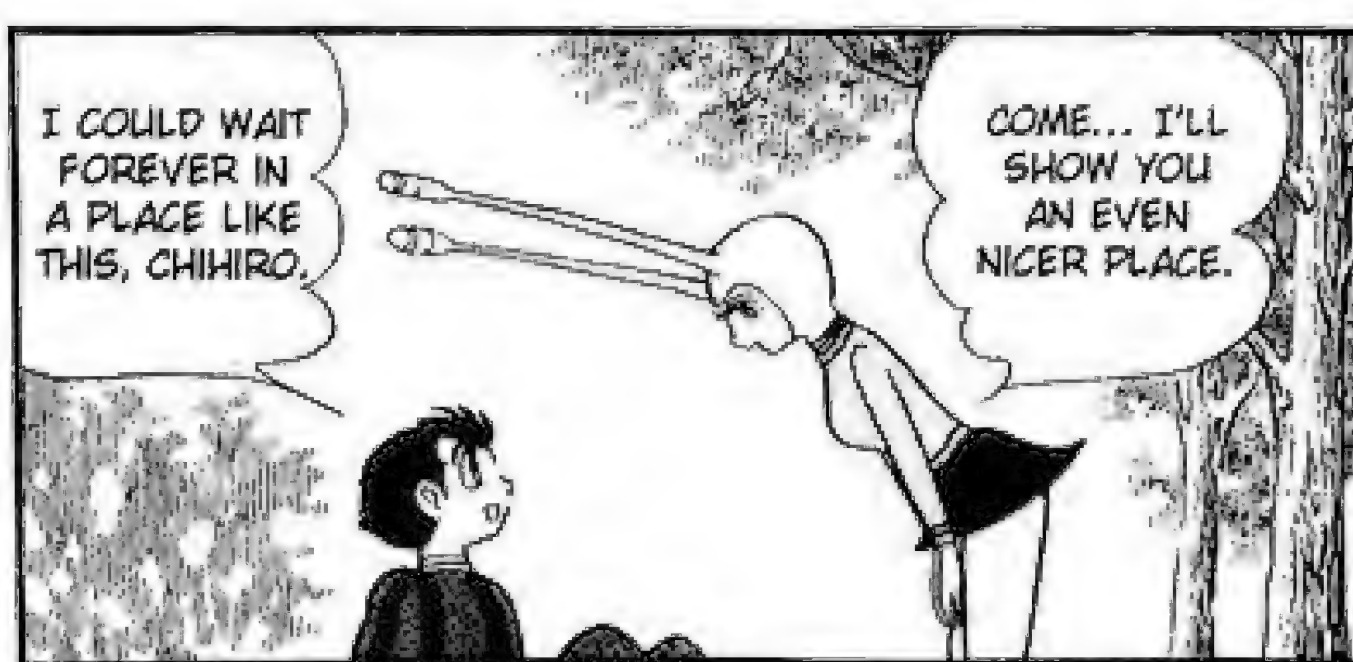
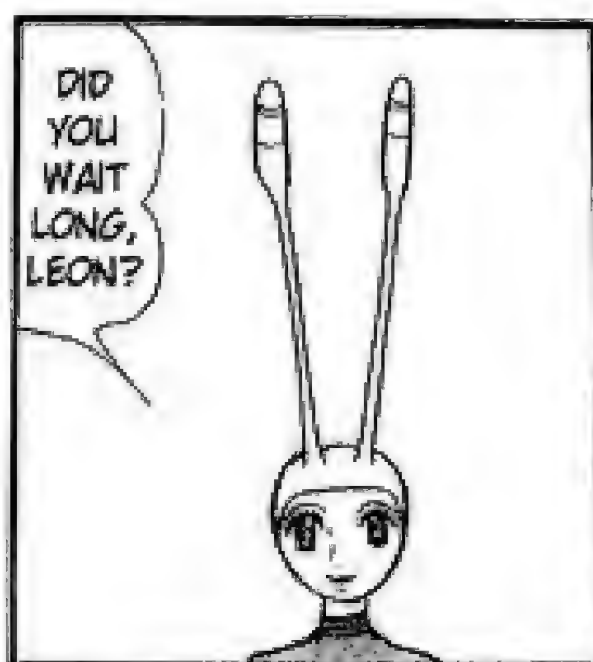
I'VE
GOT
TO...

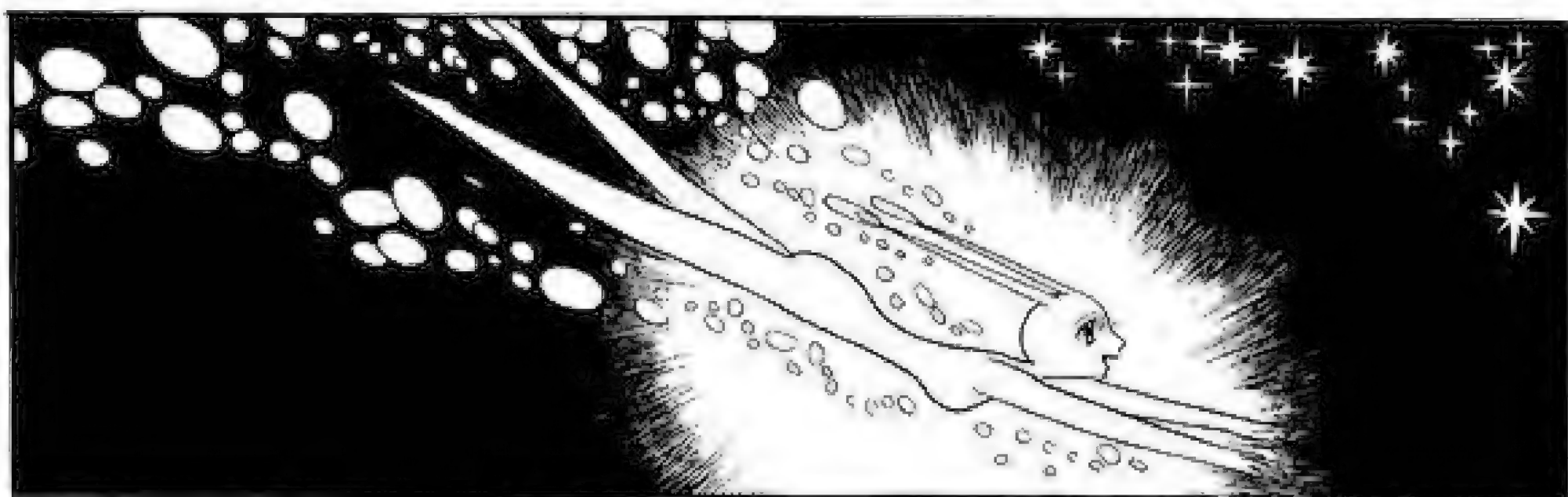
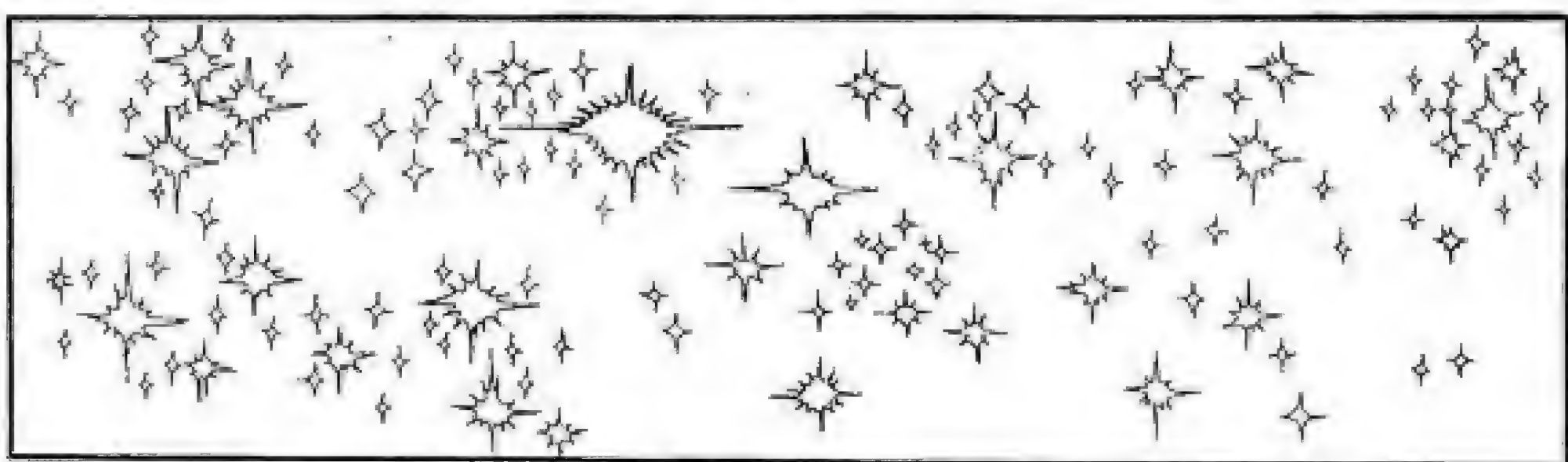


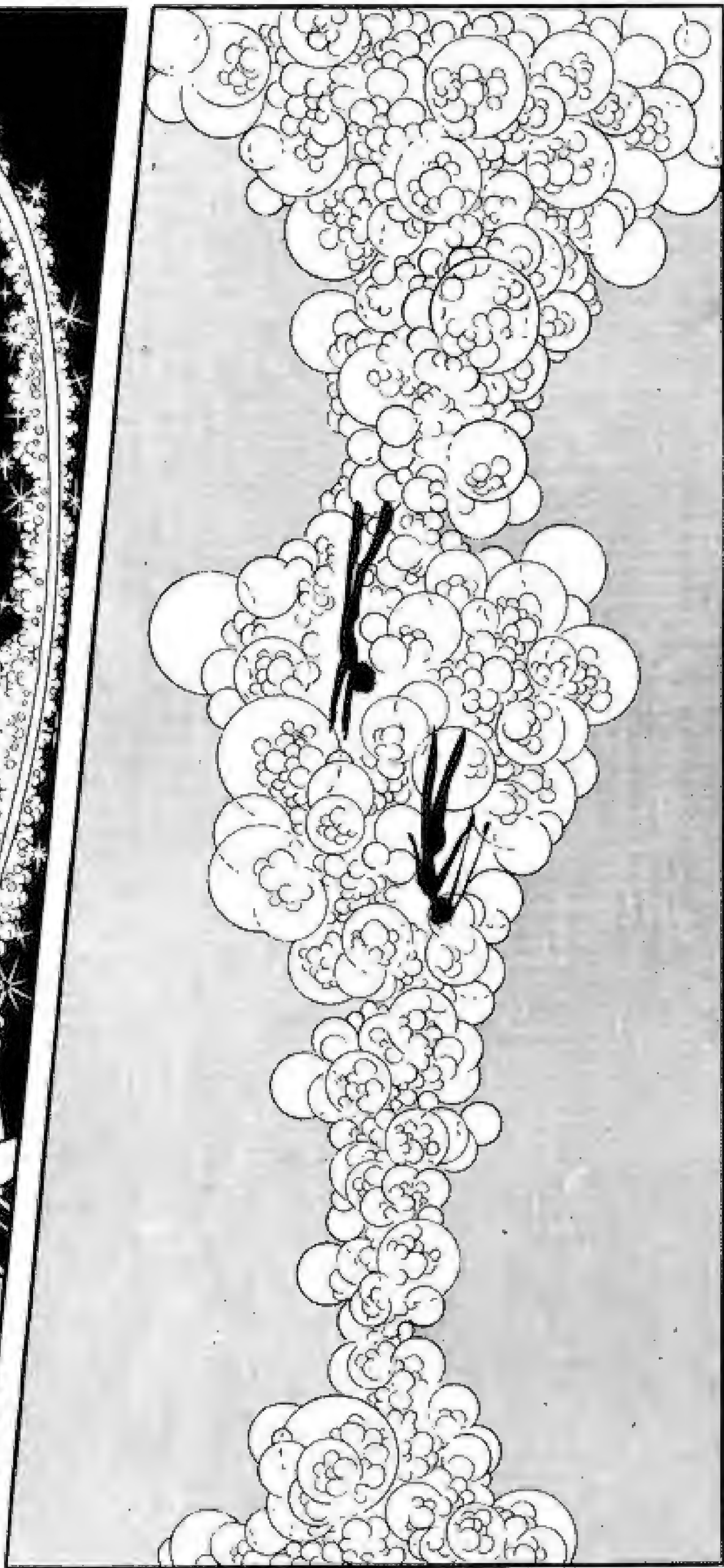
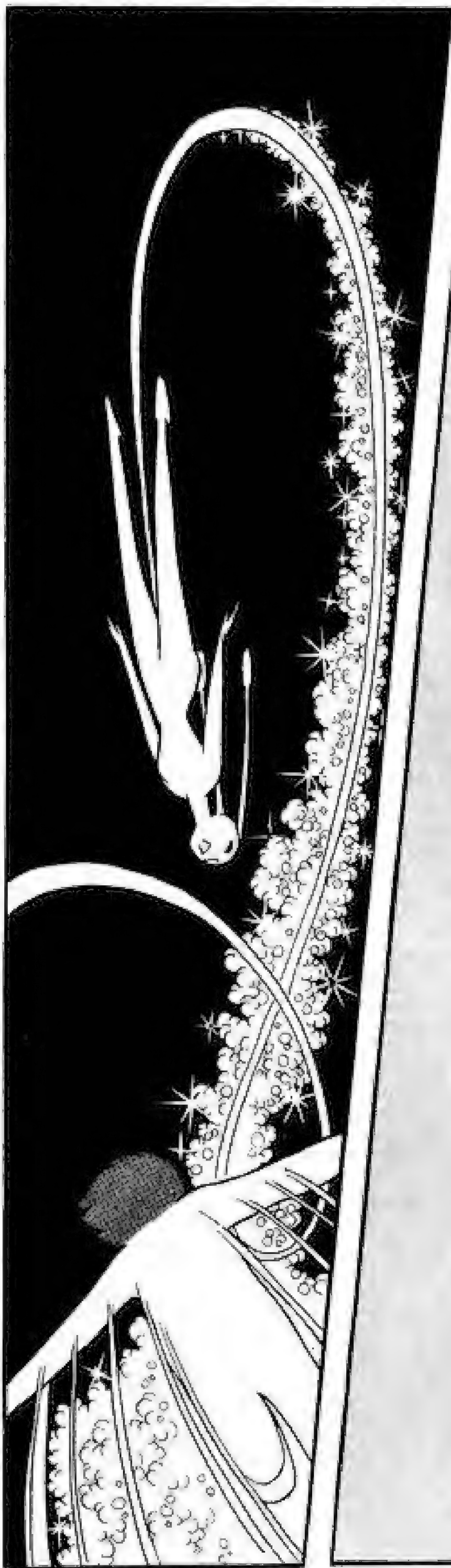


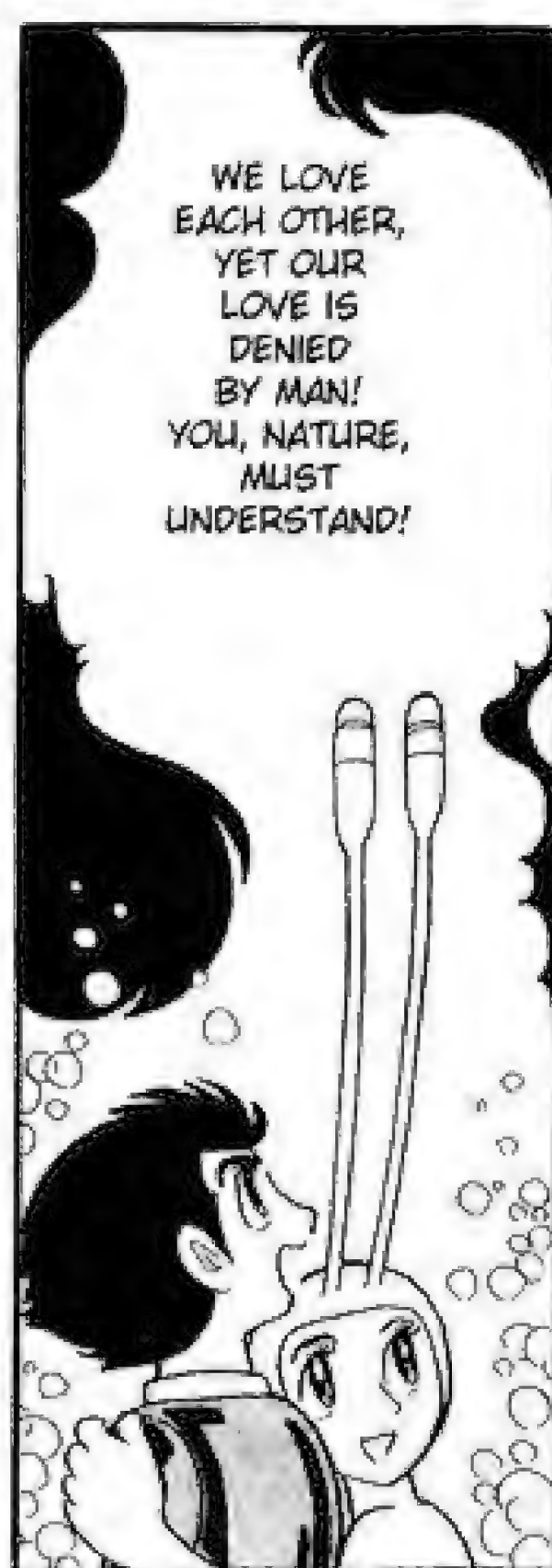
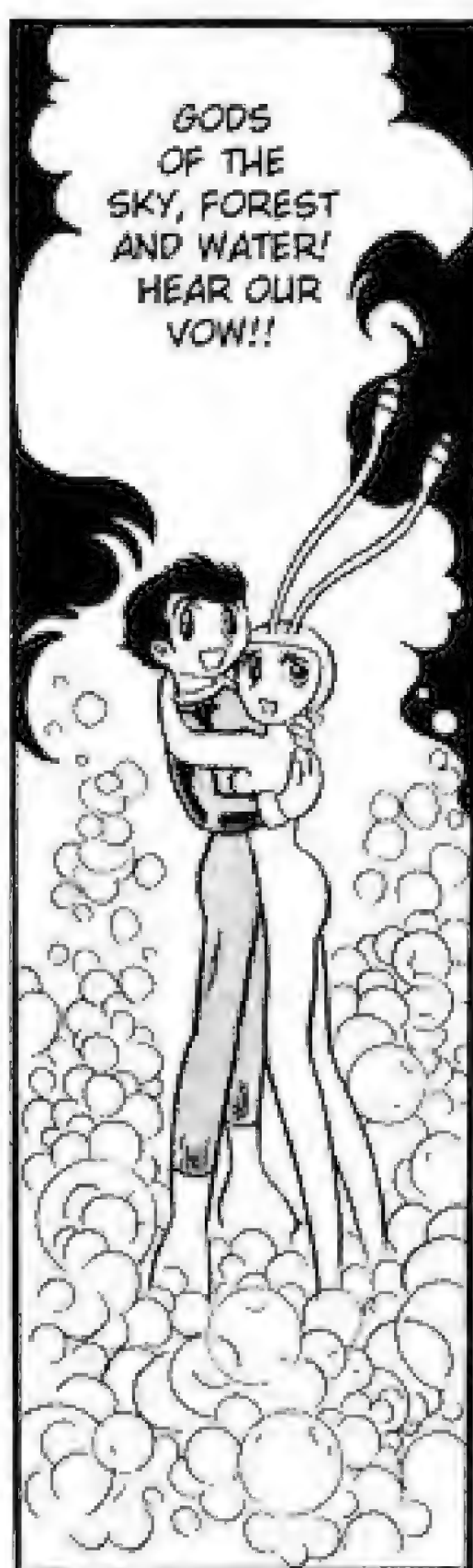




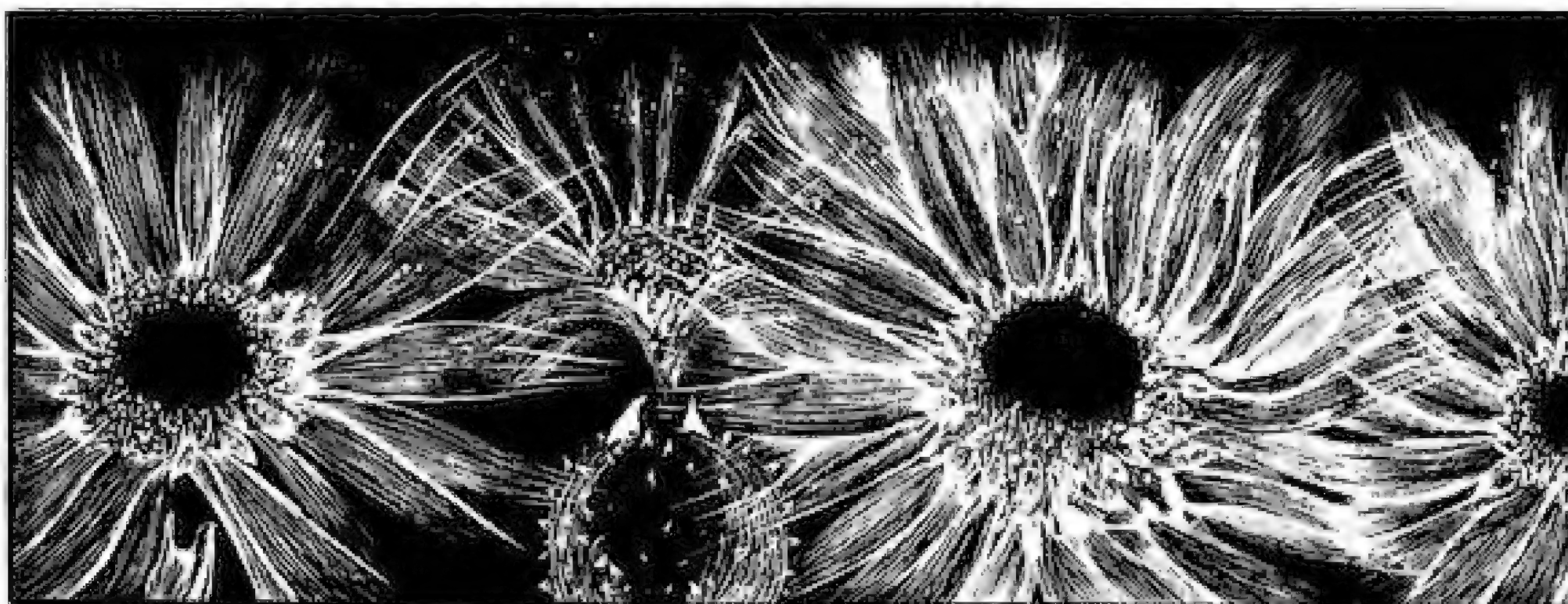
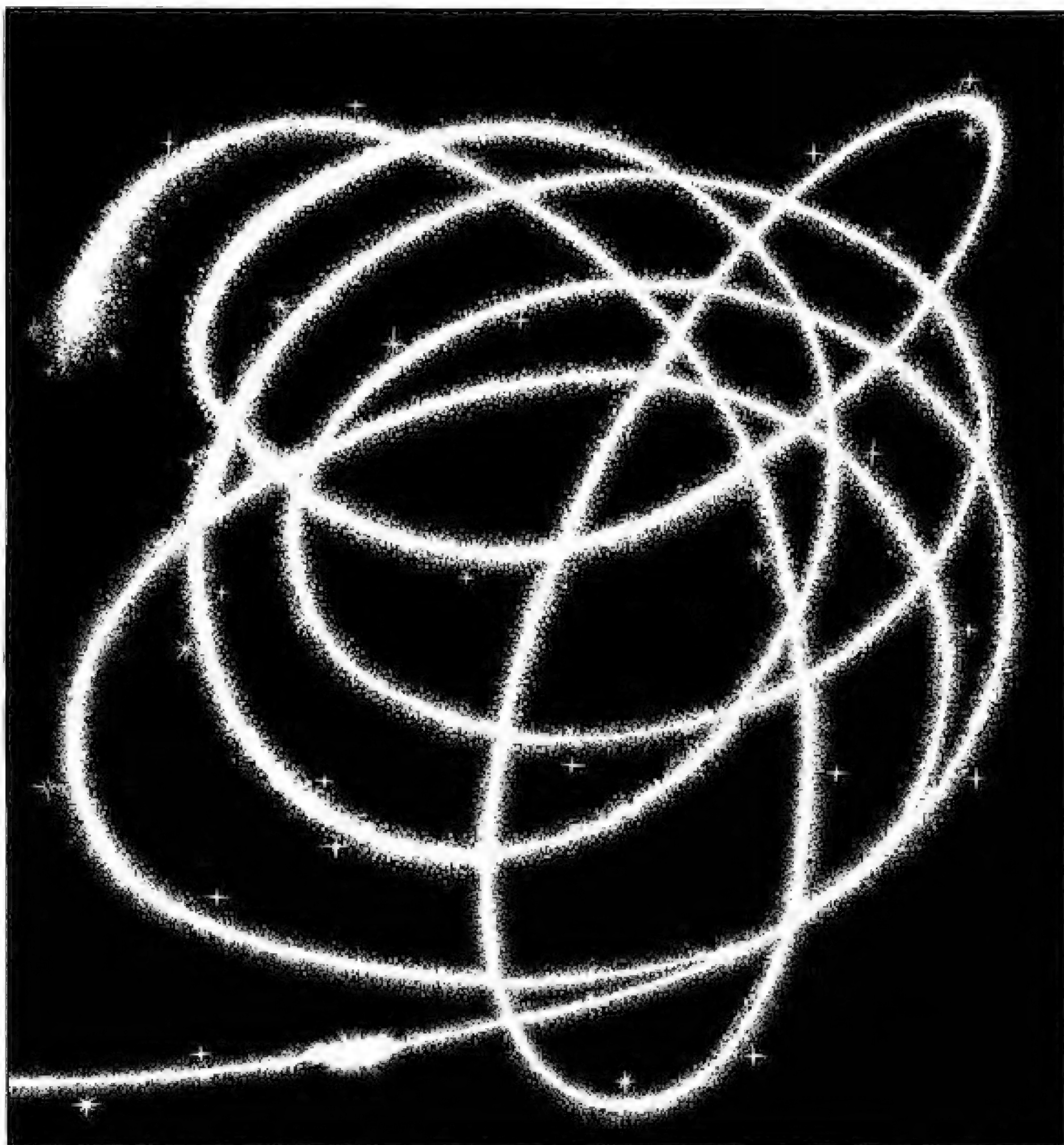


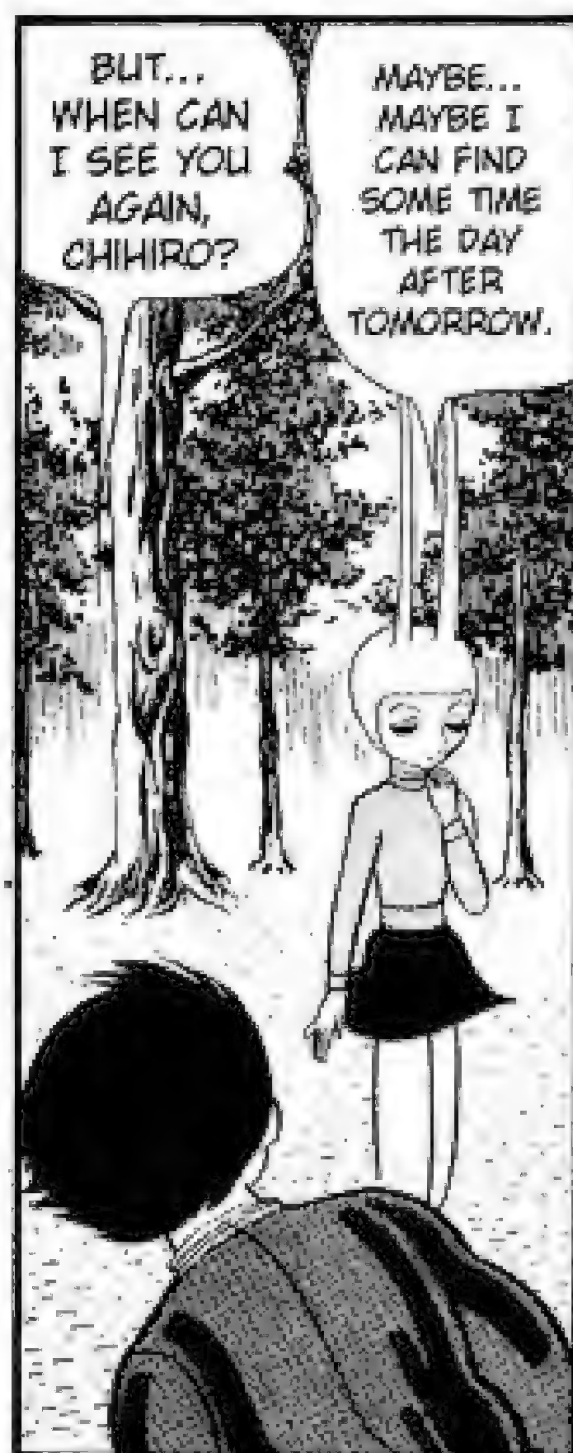
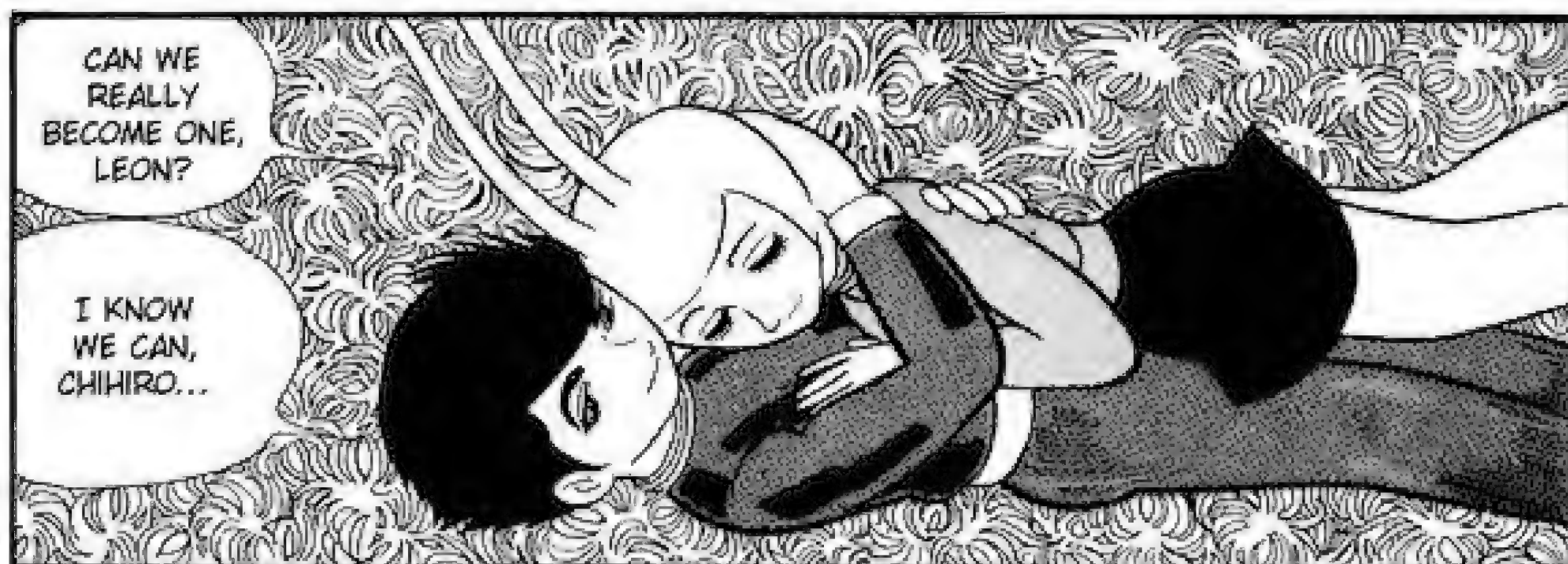






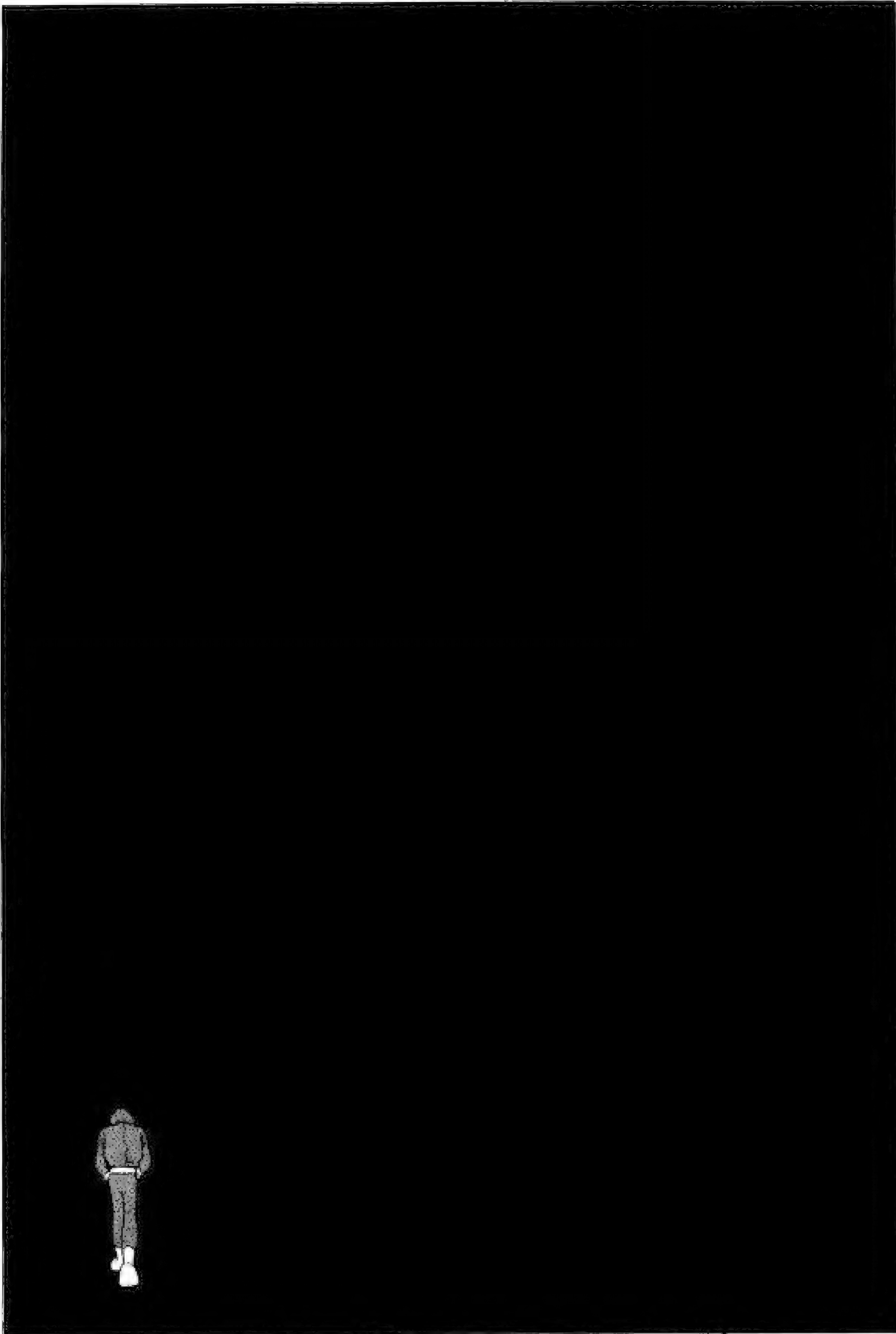




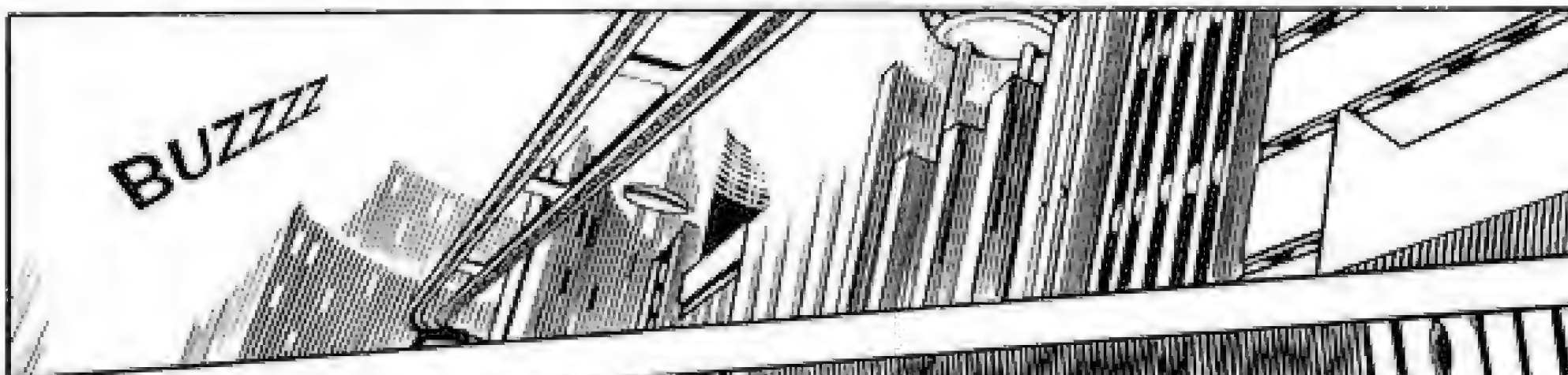
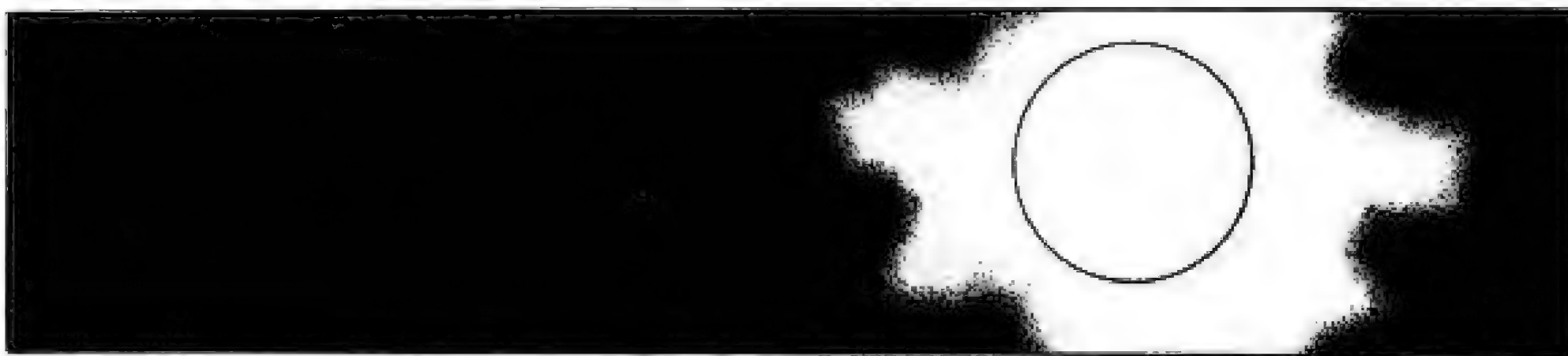


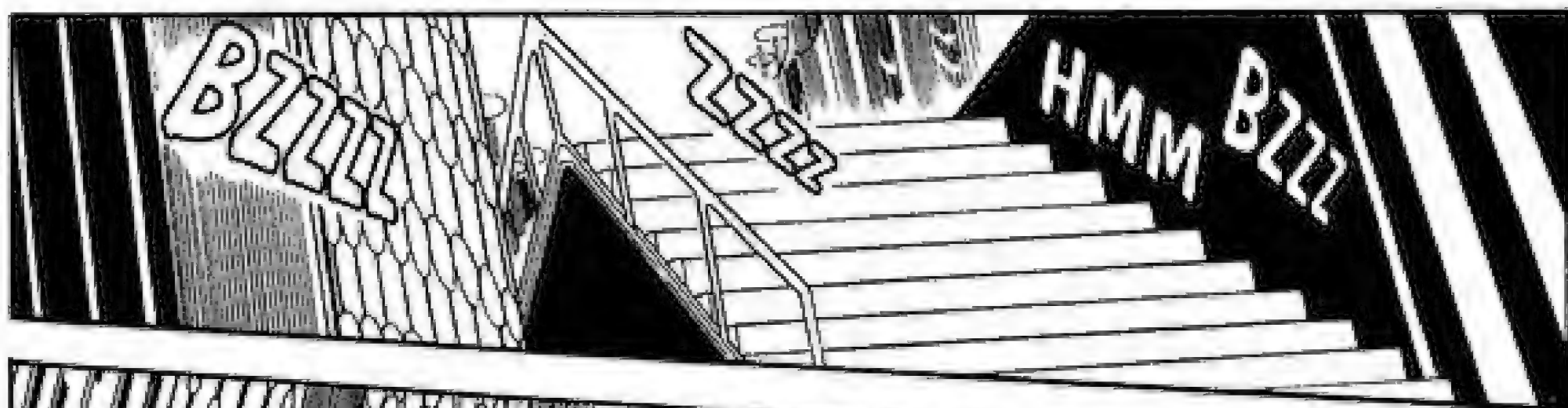


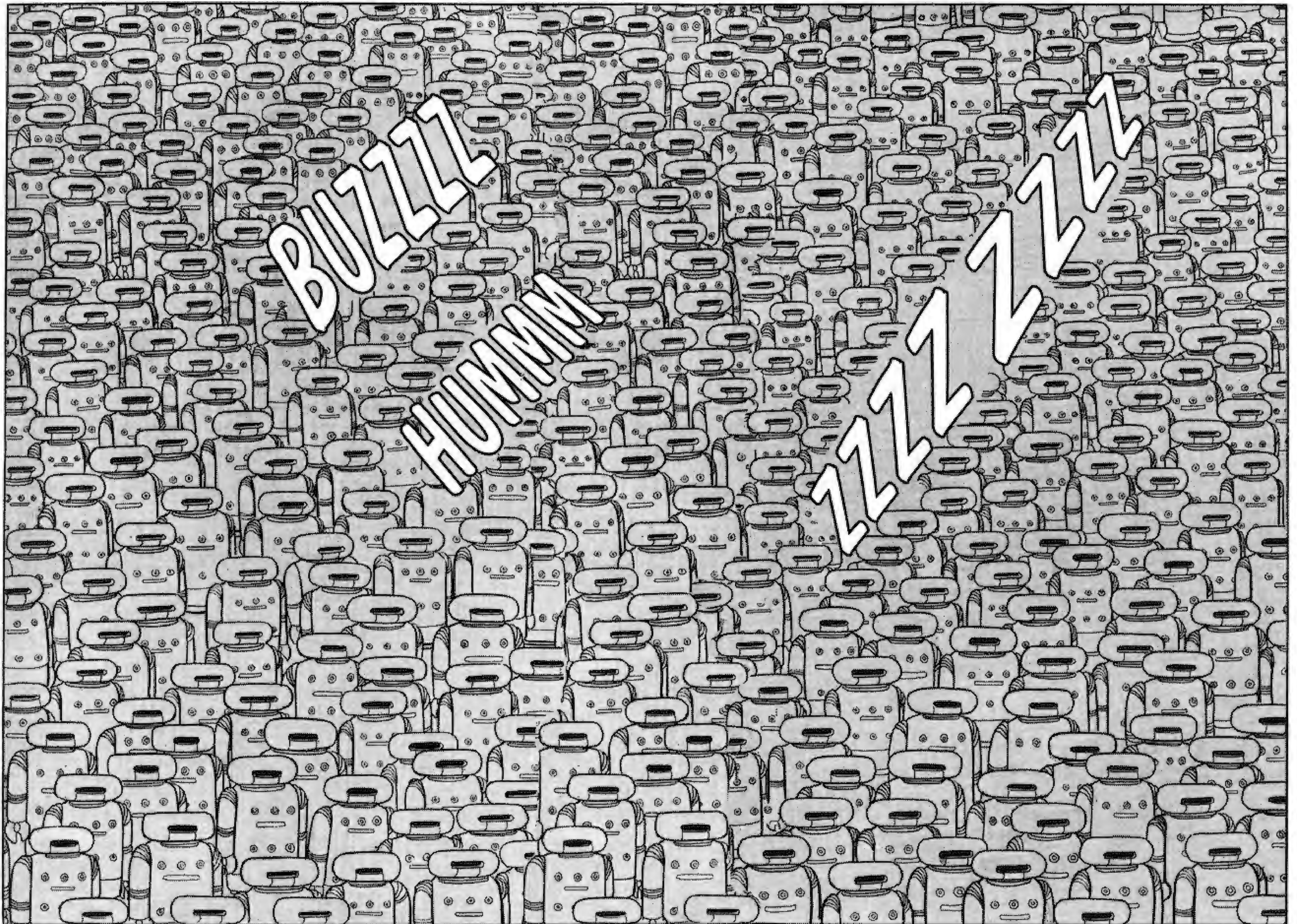


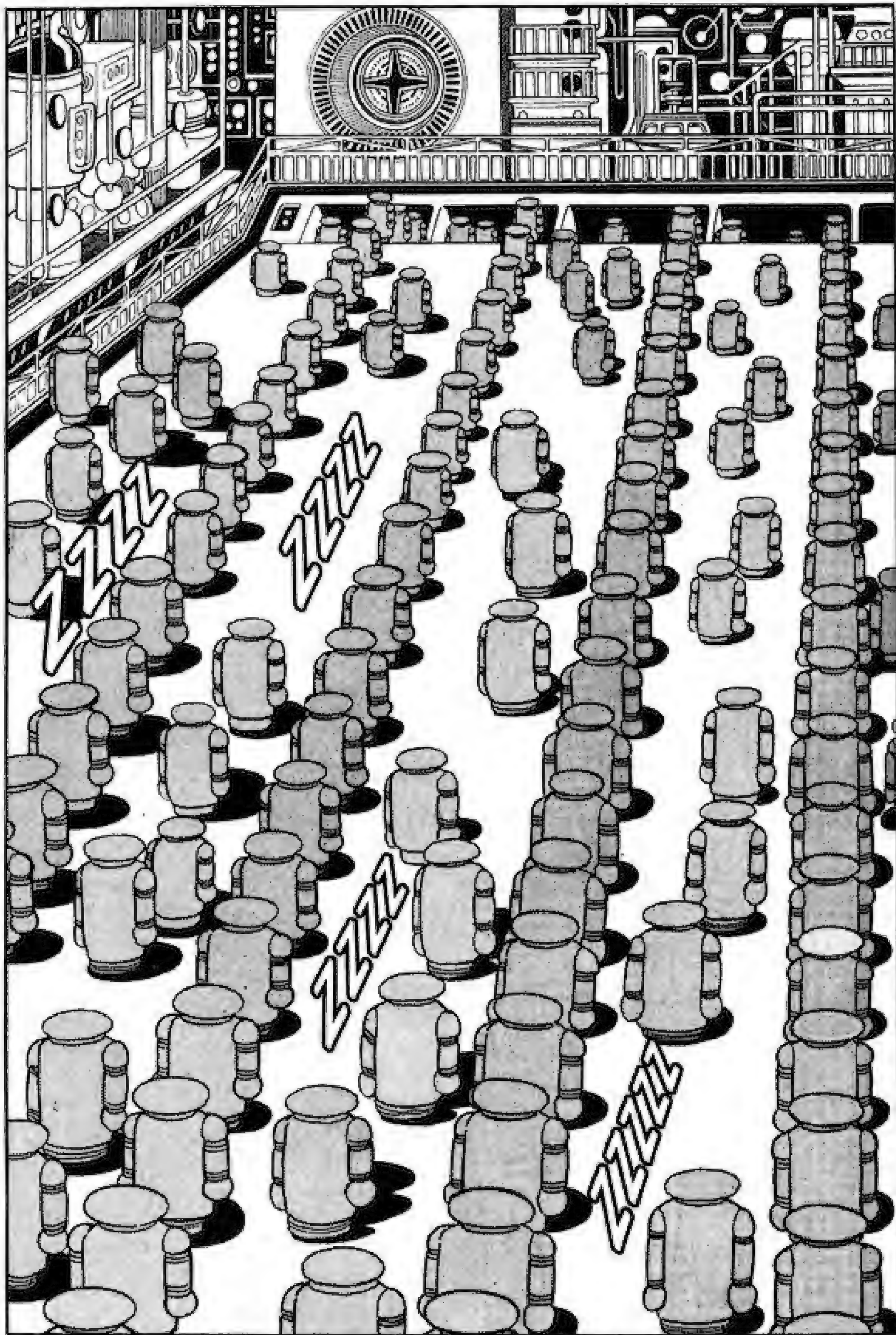


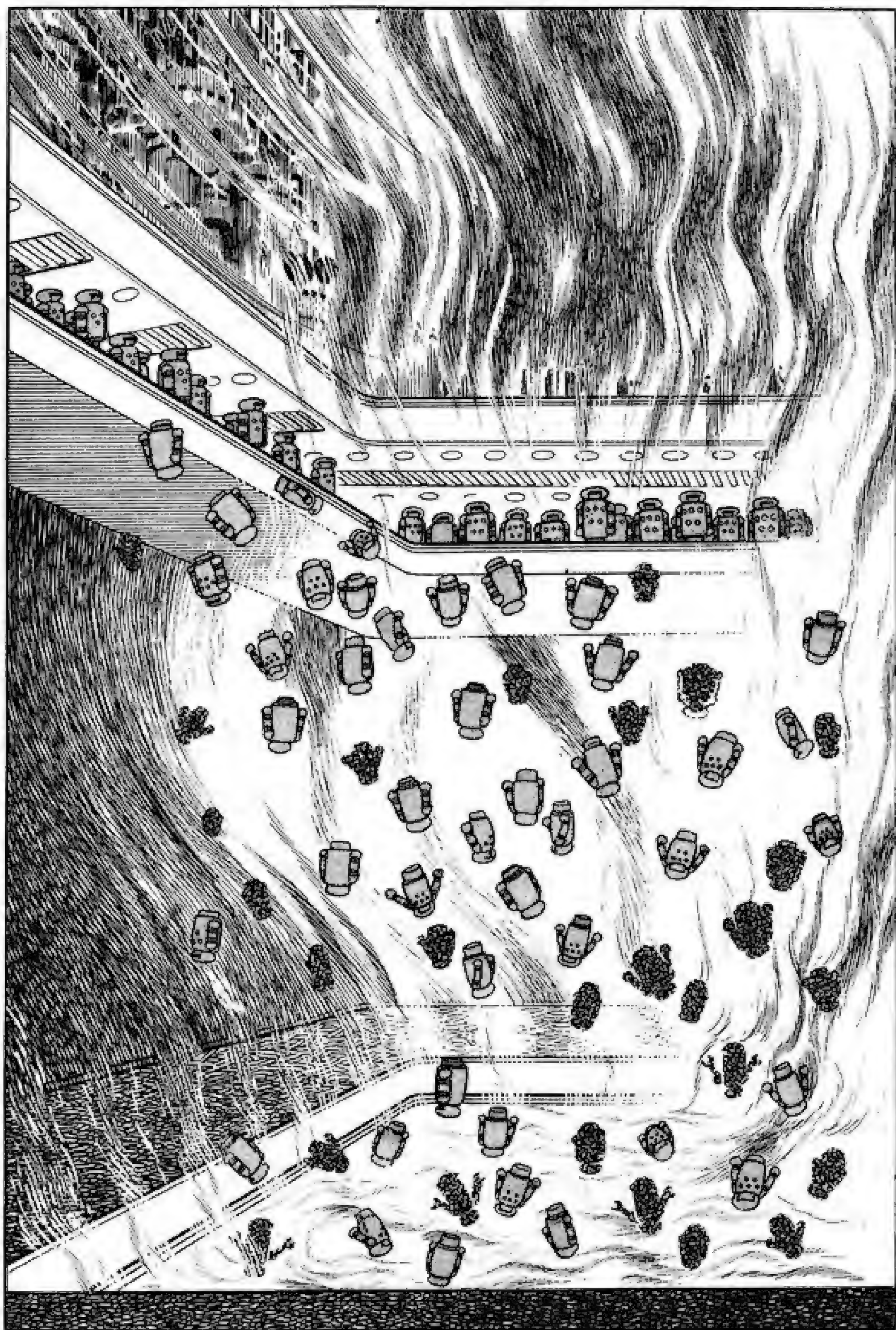
AD 3030

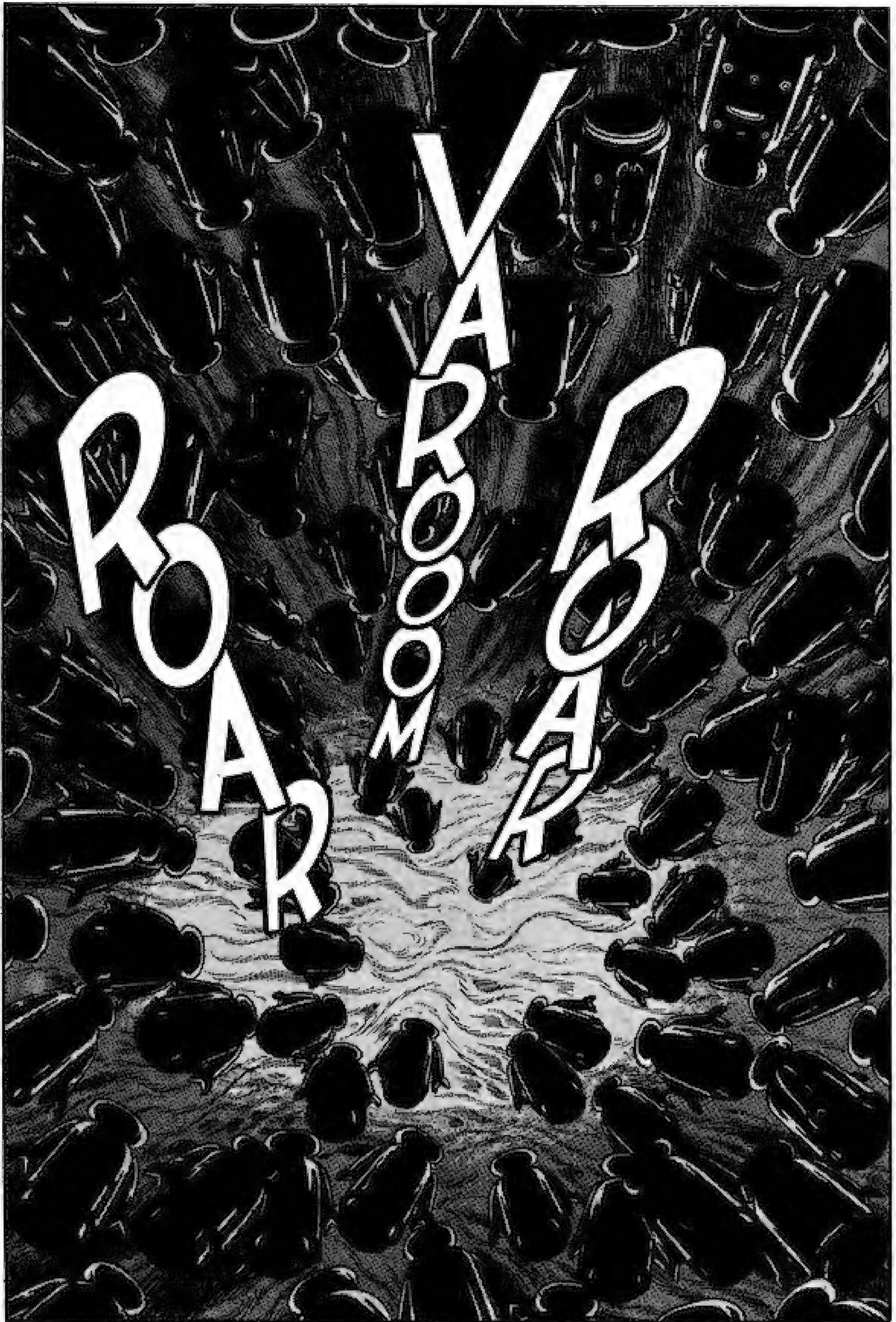




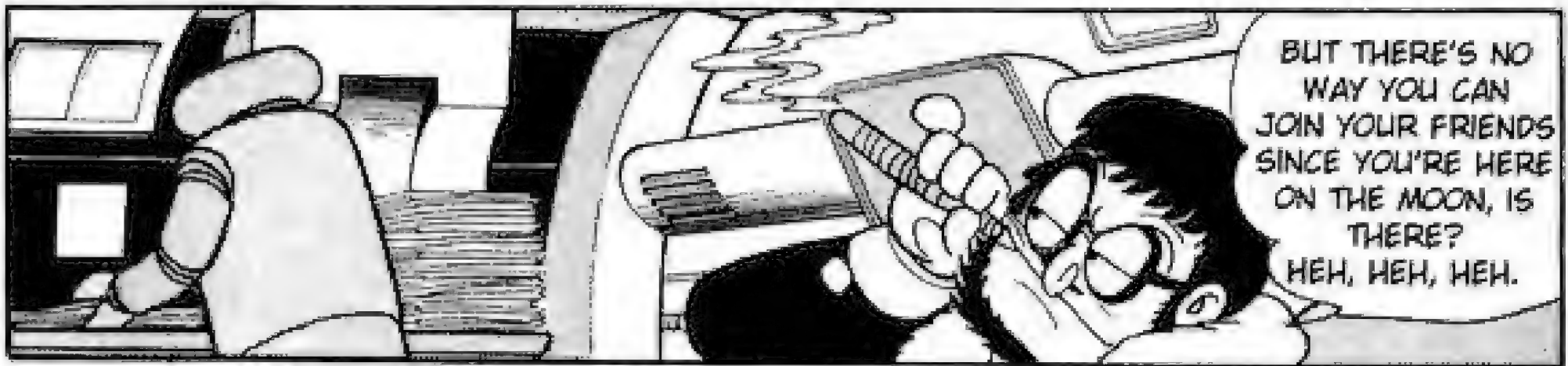
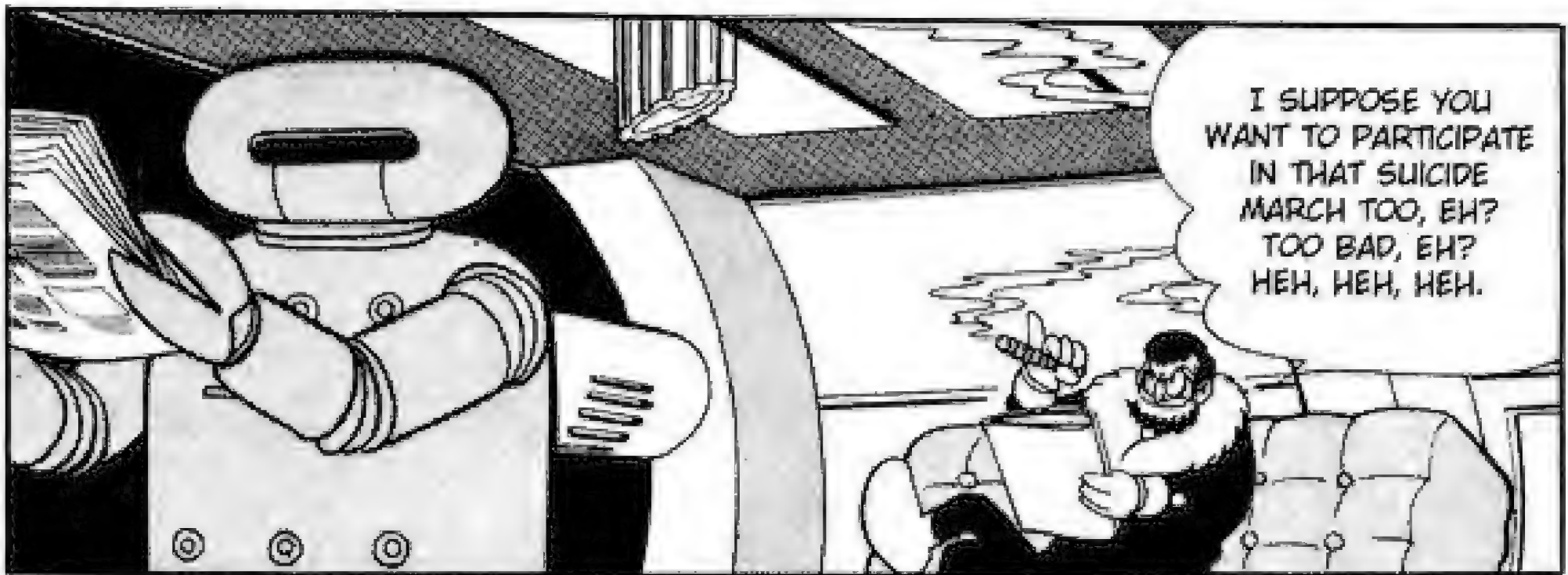








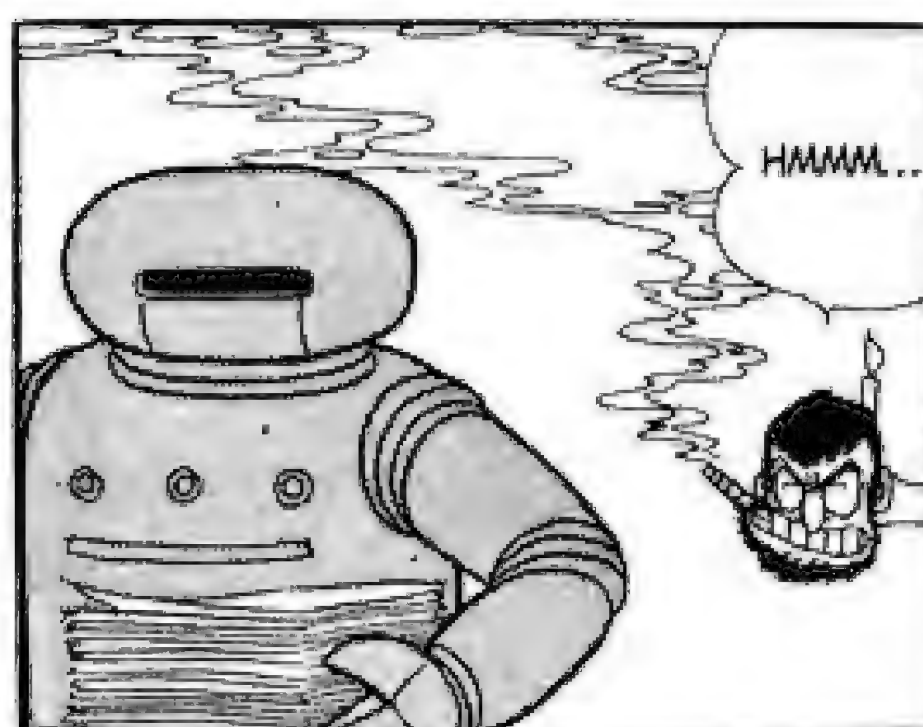






BUT TELL ME...

WHY DID ALL THOSE ROBOTS DESTROY THEMSELVES?

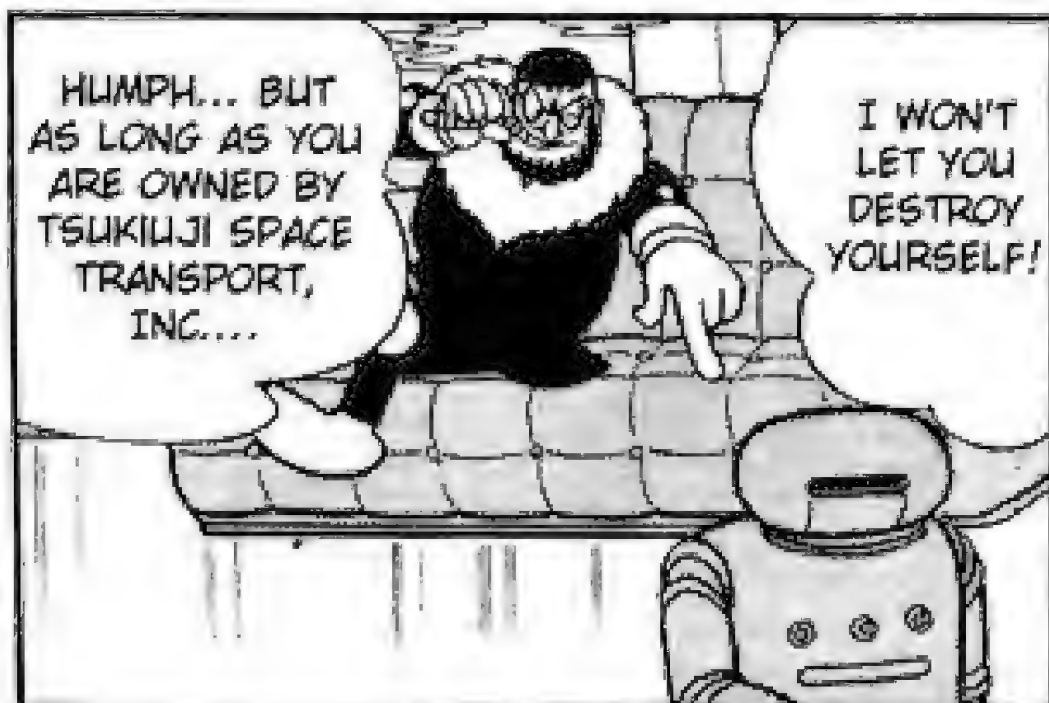


HMMM...



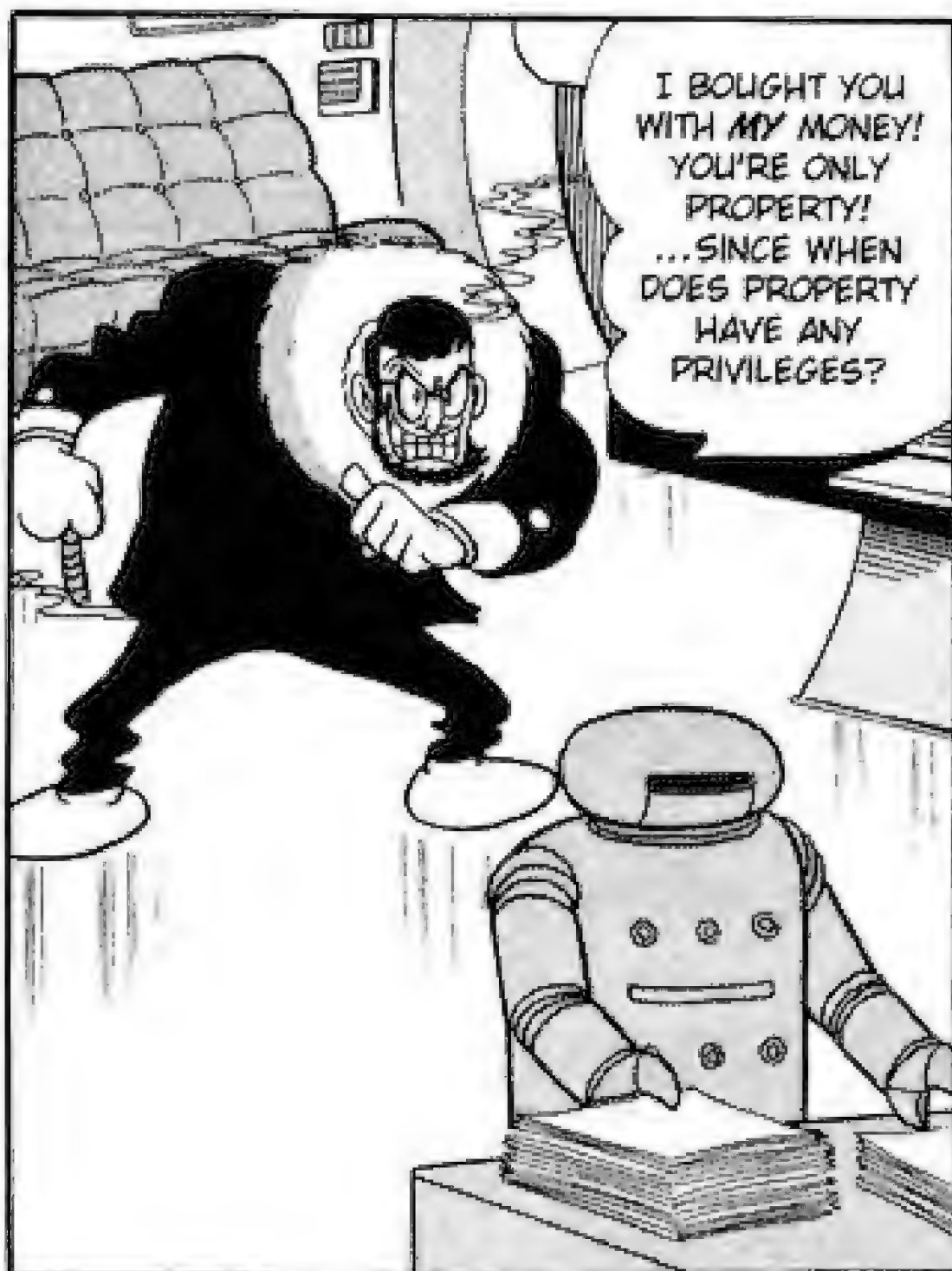
OF COURSE... WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT... THE ROBOTA MODEL ISN'T PROGRAMMED TO DEFEY MEN...

...SELF DESTRUCTION IS THEIR ONLY POSSIBLE FORM OF PROTEST...

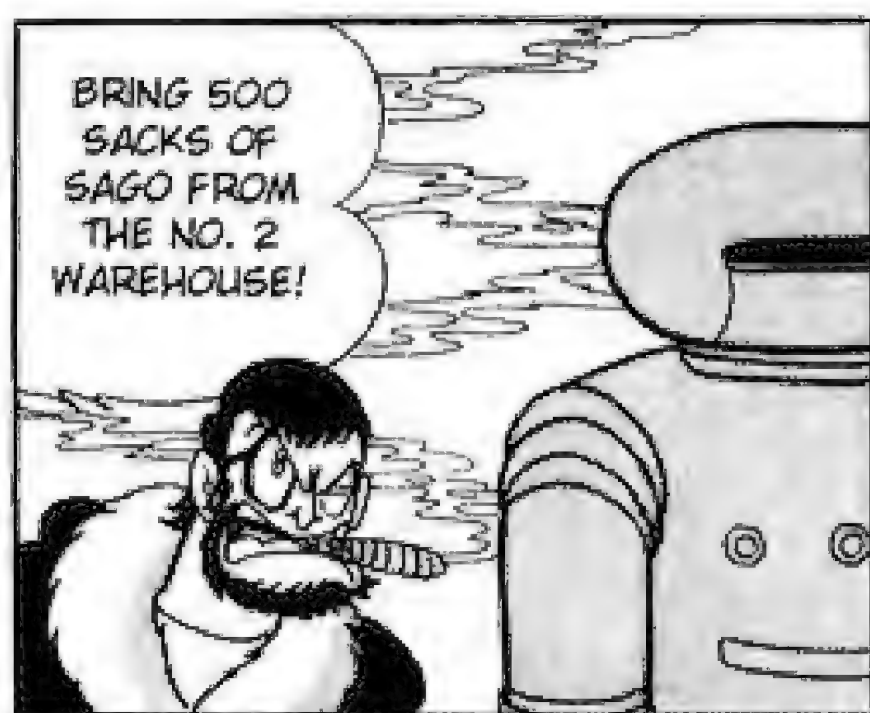


HUMPH... BUT AS LONG AS YOU ARE OWNED BY TSUKIJIJI SPACE TRANSPORT, INC....

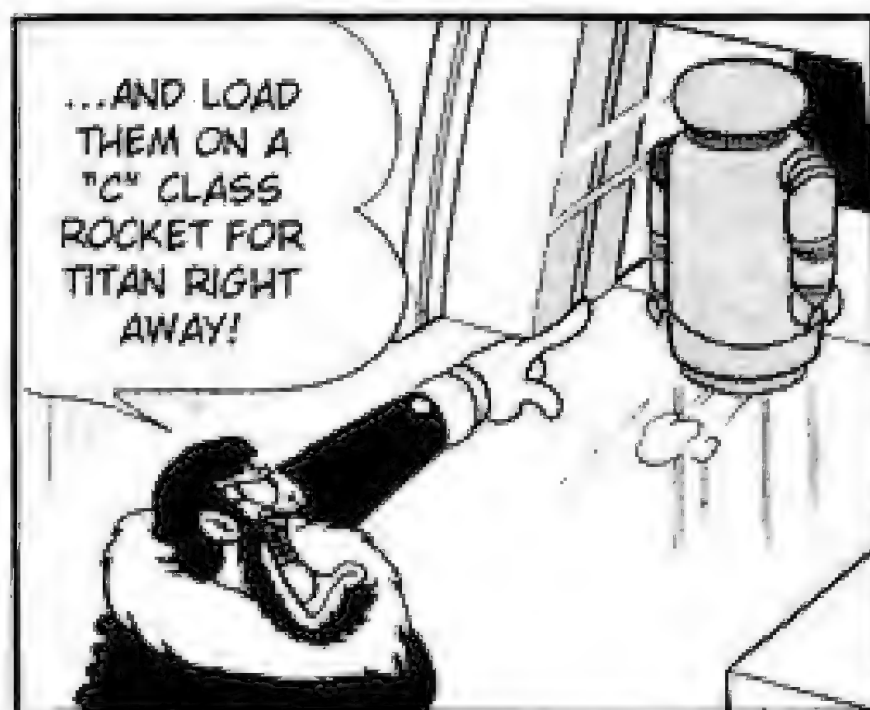
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY YOURSELF!



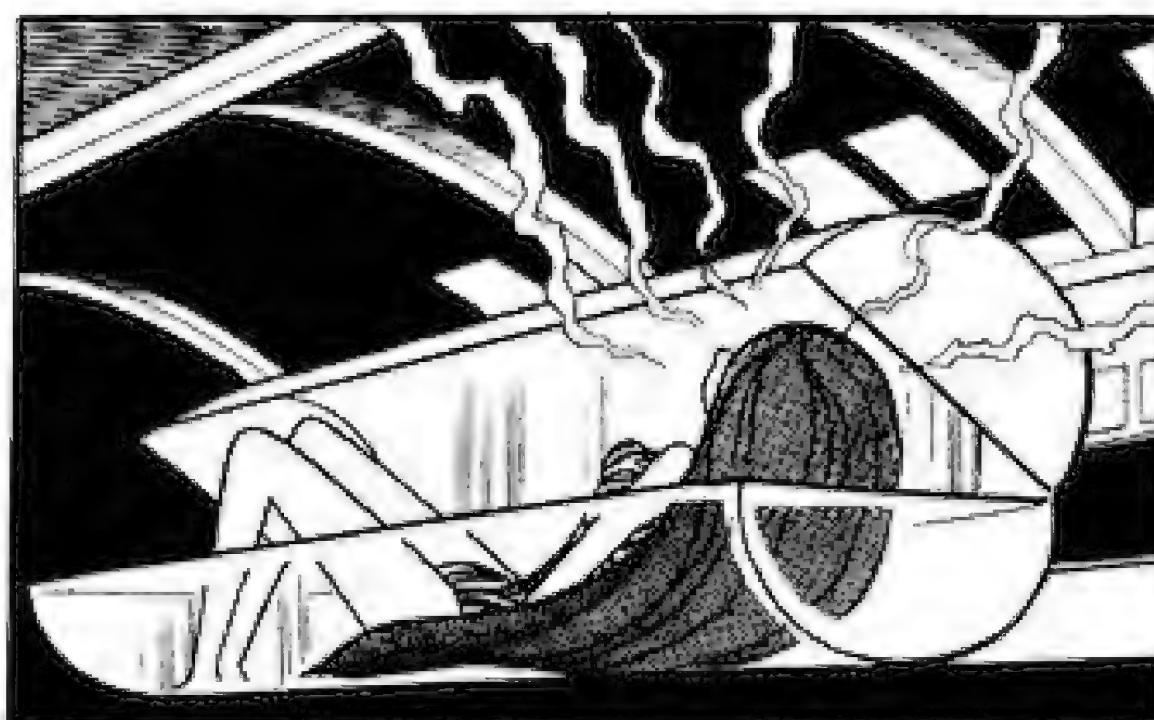
I BOUGHT YOU WITH MY MONEY! YOU'RE ONLY PROPERTY! ...SINCE WHEN DOES PROPERTY HAVE ANY PRIVILEGES?

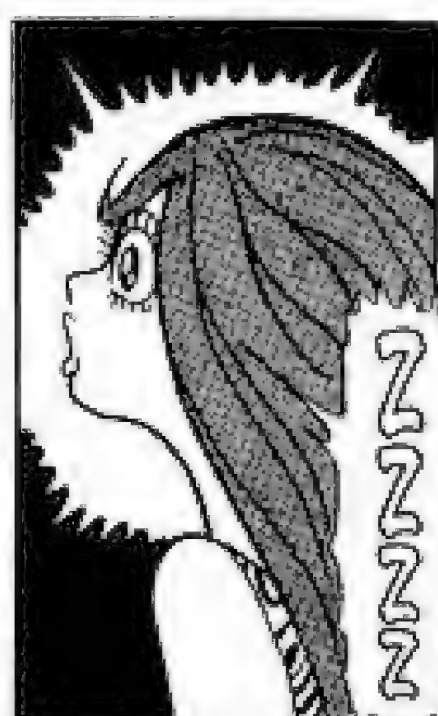
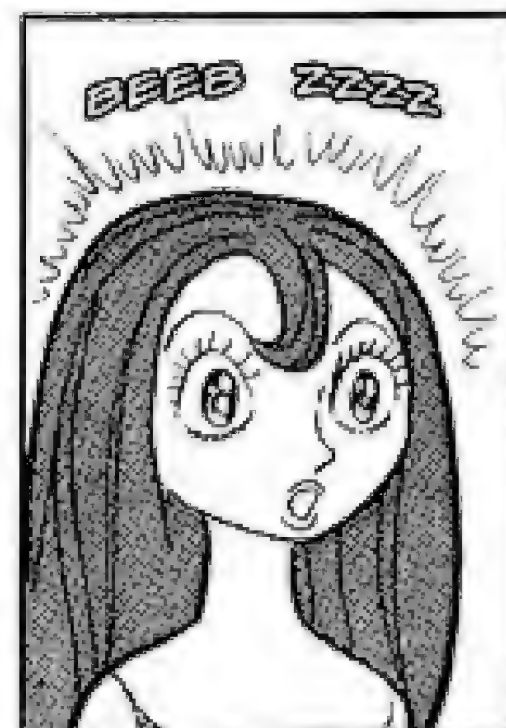
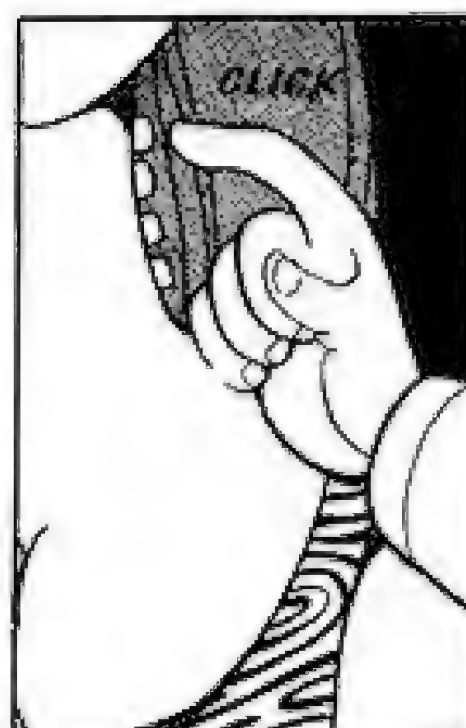


BRING 500 SACKS OF SAGO FROM THE NO. 2 WAREHOUSE!



...AND LOAD THEM ON A "C" CLASS ROCKET FOR TITAN RIGHT AWAY!







THEY MUST
HAVE A
BETTER
MODEL ON
SALE DOWN
ON EARTH
NOW...



THERE MUST
BE NEW
ANDROIDS
THAT WOULD
SLAP A
PERSON ON
THE FACE IF
THEY WERE
REALLY
ANGRY...

BUT I
CAN DO
THAT...



WELL...
GO
AHEAD...



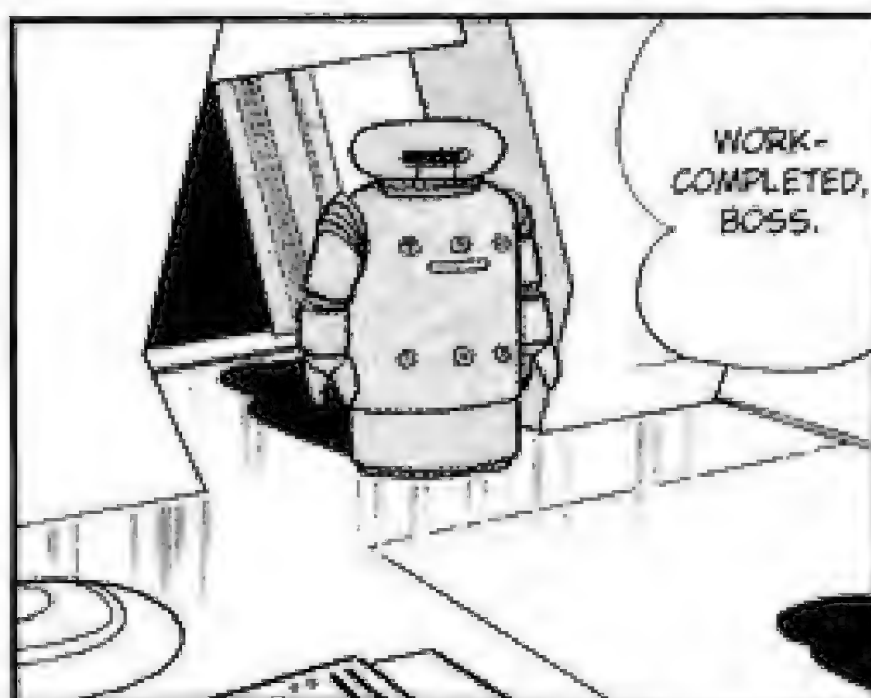
SEE...
YOU
CAN'T...

YOU'RE
NOT
PRO-
GRAMMED
TO!!

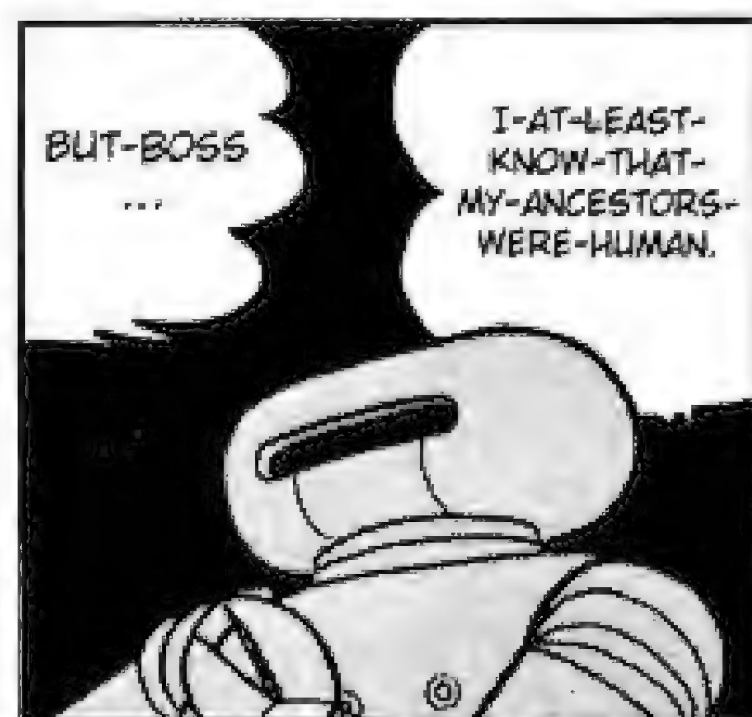
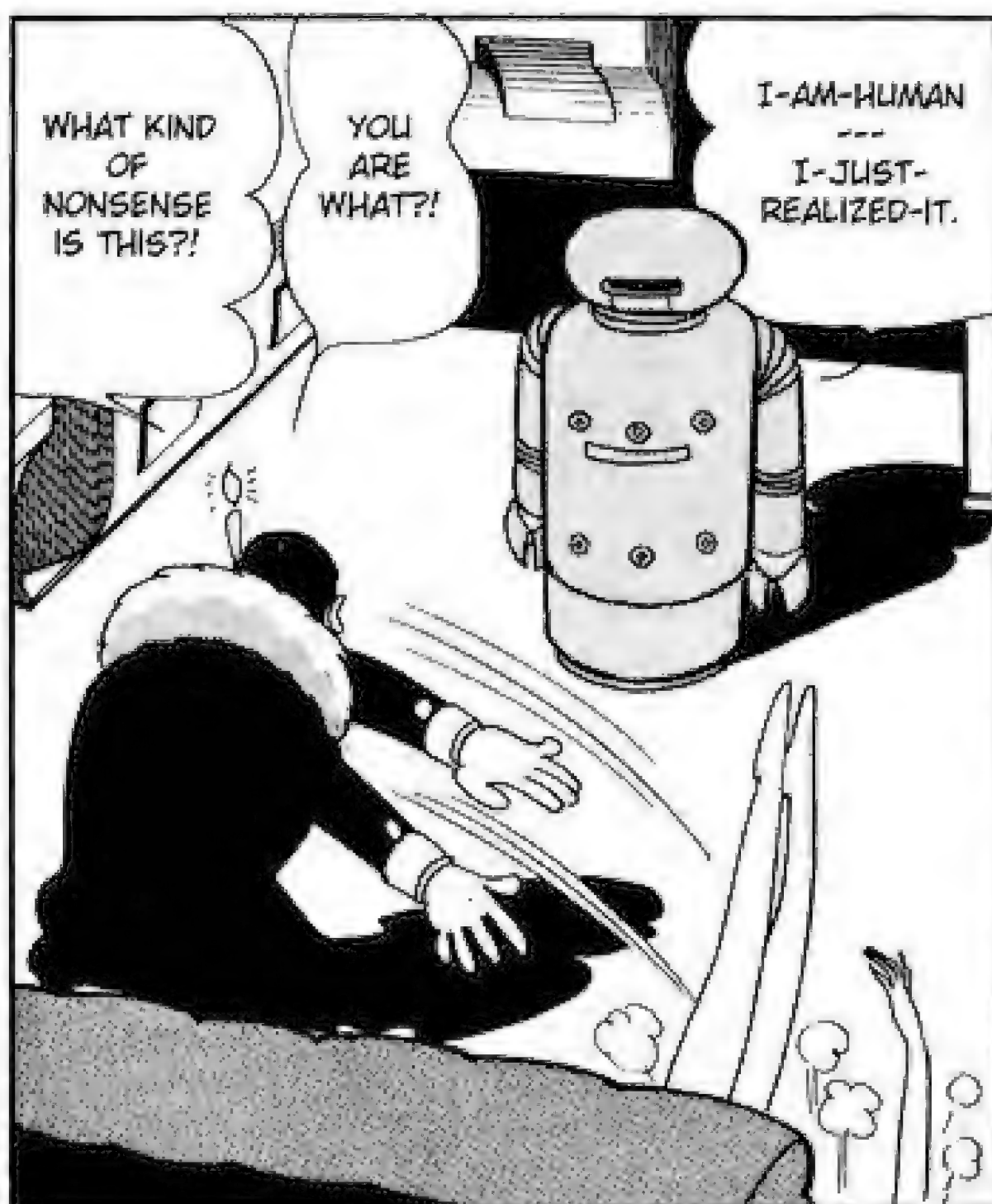
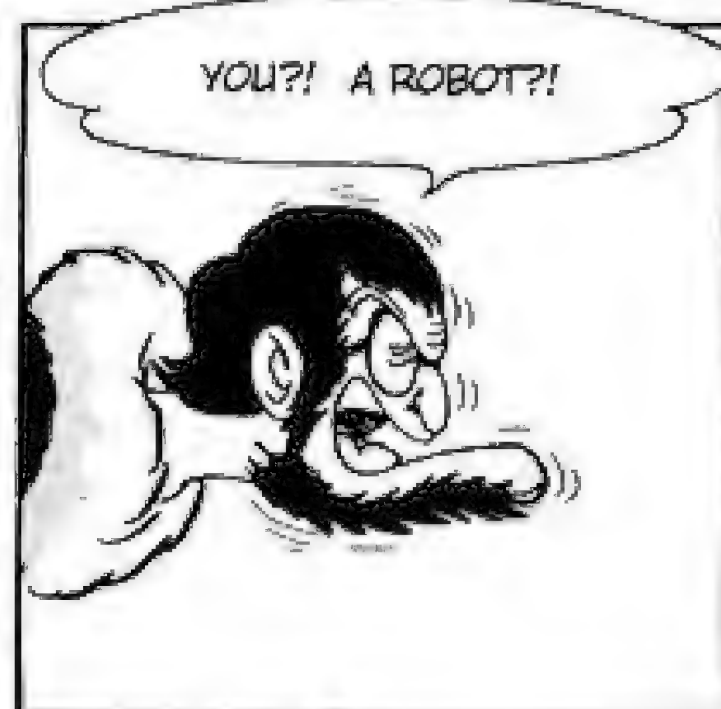
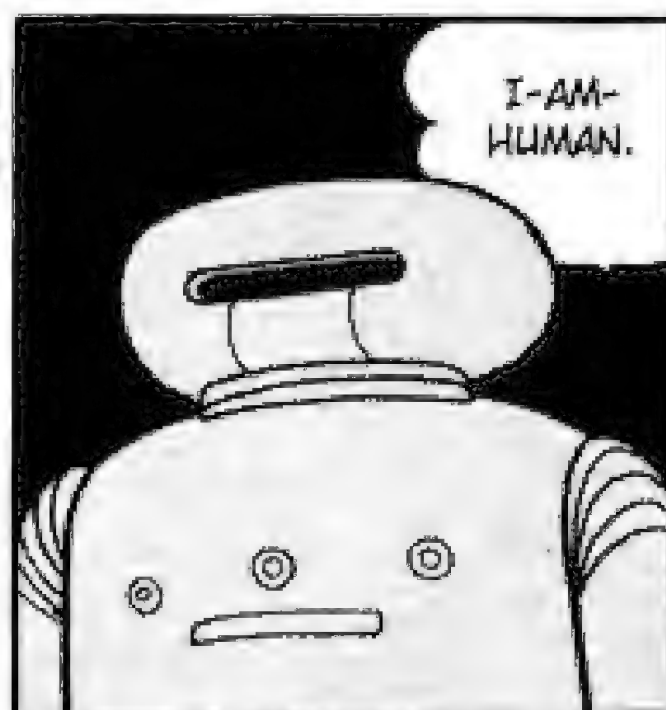
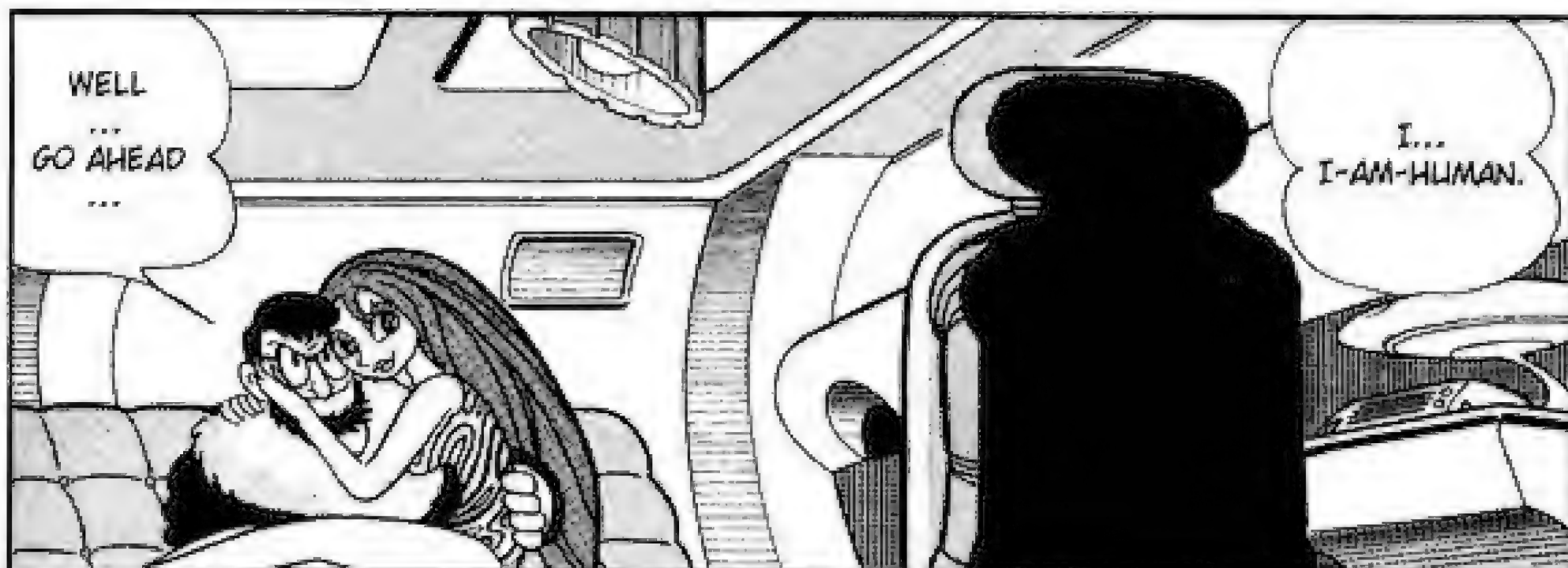


WELL... THEN
GET BACK TO
YOUR USUAL
WORK...

BOSS-I-
HAVE-SOME-
THING-TO-
TELL-YOU.

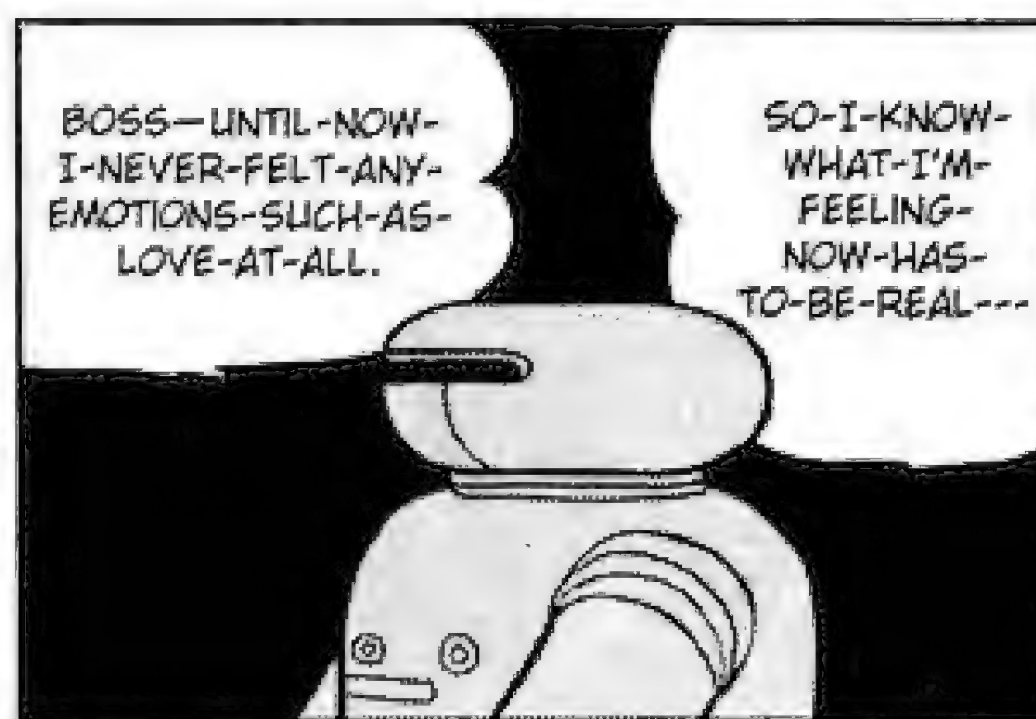


WORK-
COMPLETED,
BOSS.



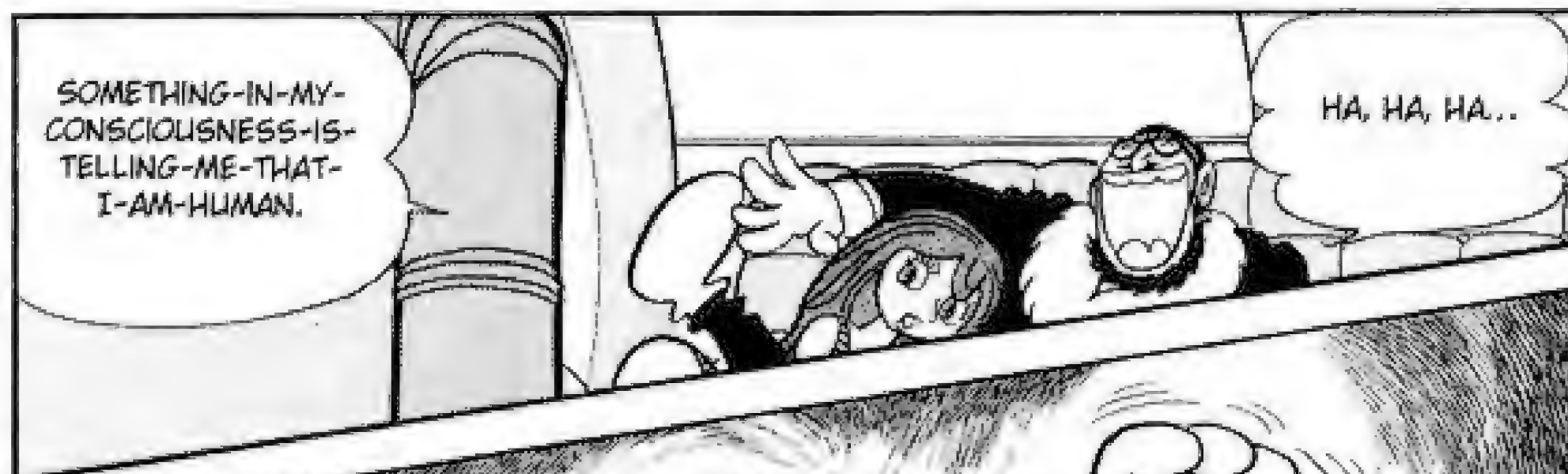


DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
YOU'VE NO PROOF OF
THAT WHATSOEVER!



BOSS—UNTIL-NOW-
I-NEVER-FELT-ANY-
EMOTIONS-SUCH-AS-
LOVE-AT-ALL.

SO-I-KNOW-
WHAT-I'M-
FEELING-
NOW-HAS-
TO-BE-REAL---

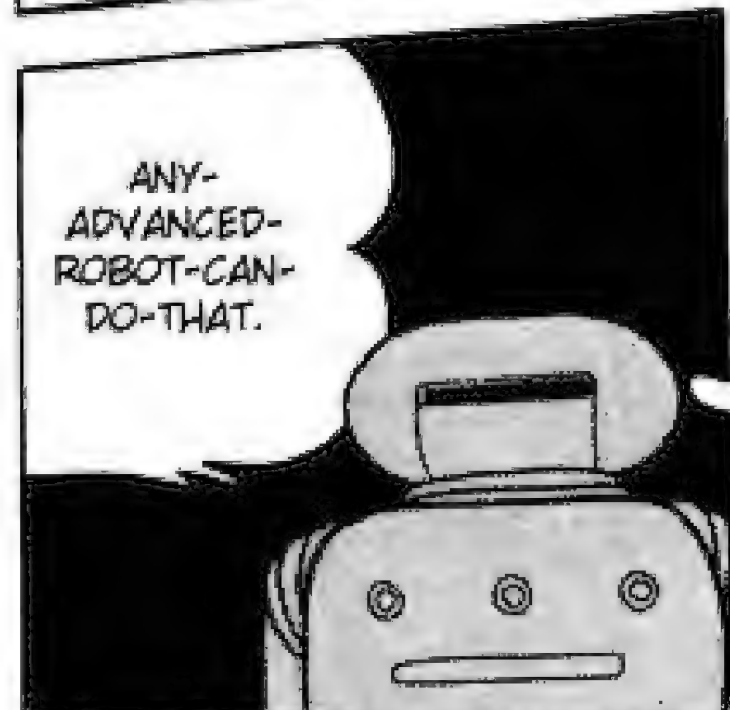
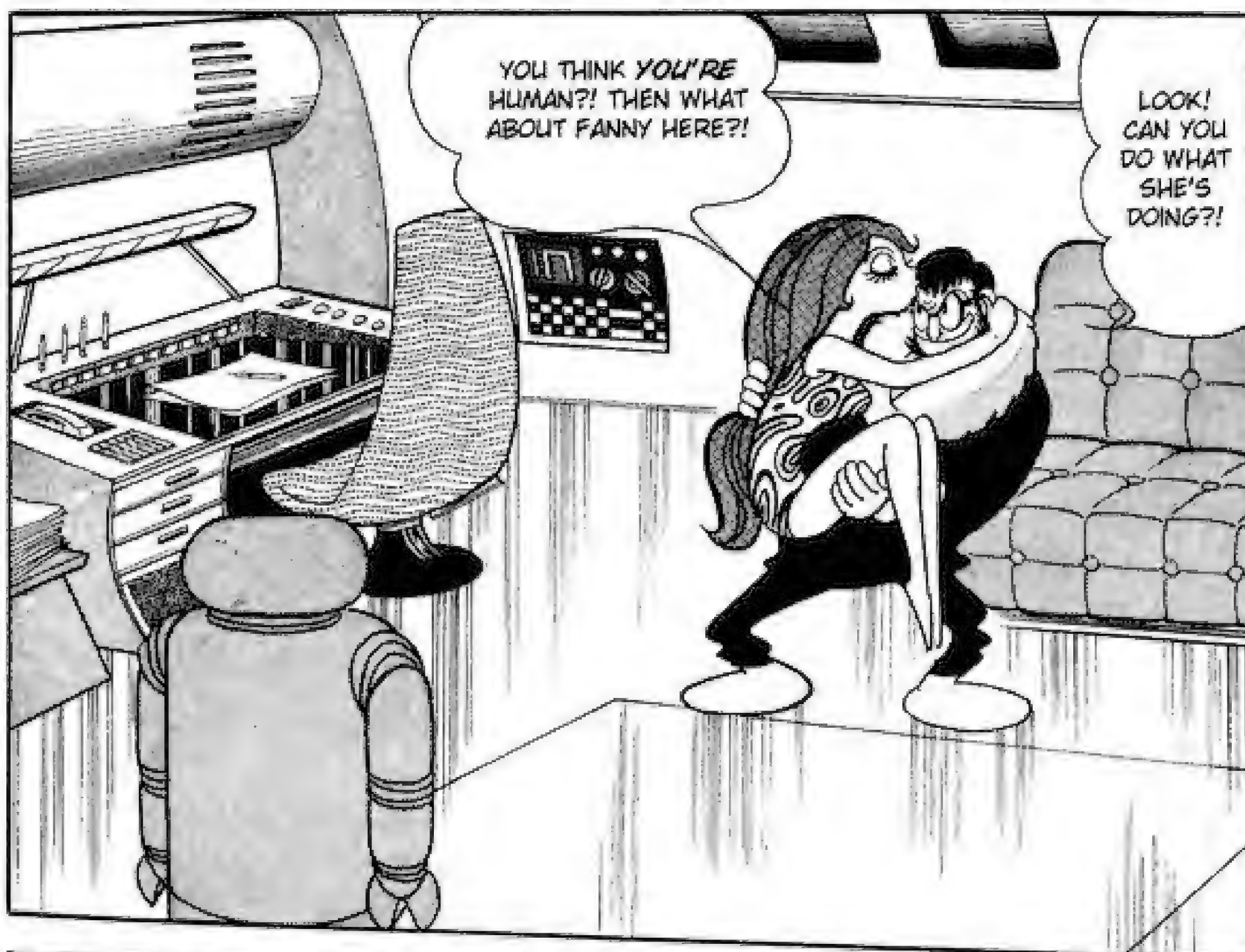


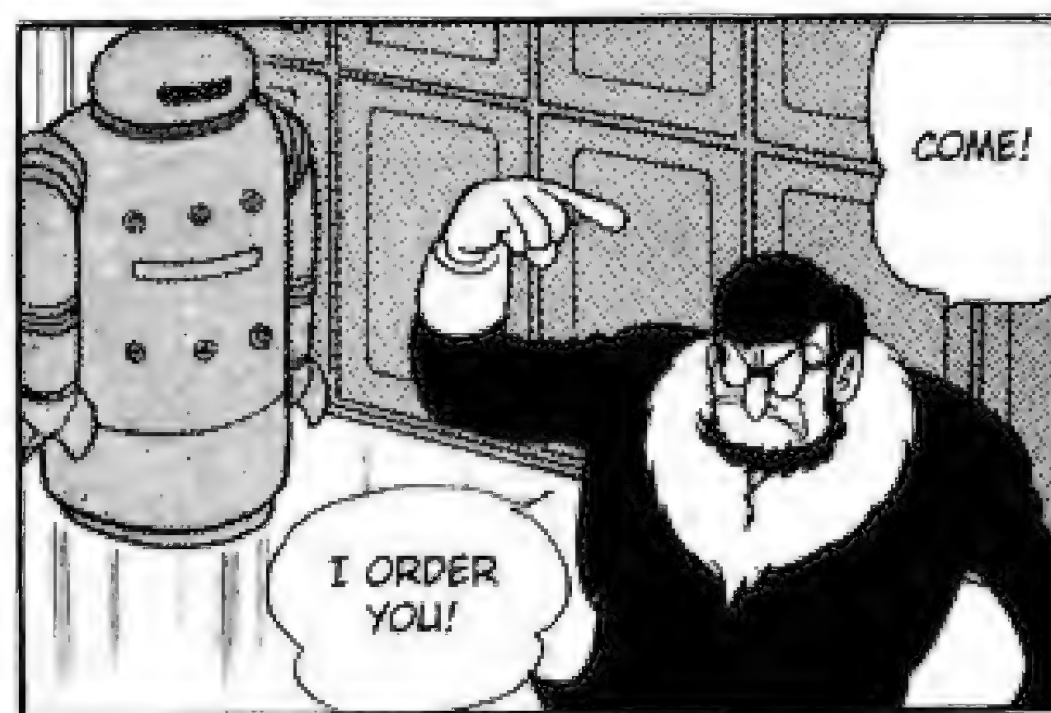
SOMETHING-IN-MY-
CONSCIOUSNESS-IS-
TELLING-ME-THAT-
I-AM-HUMAN.

HA, HA, HA...



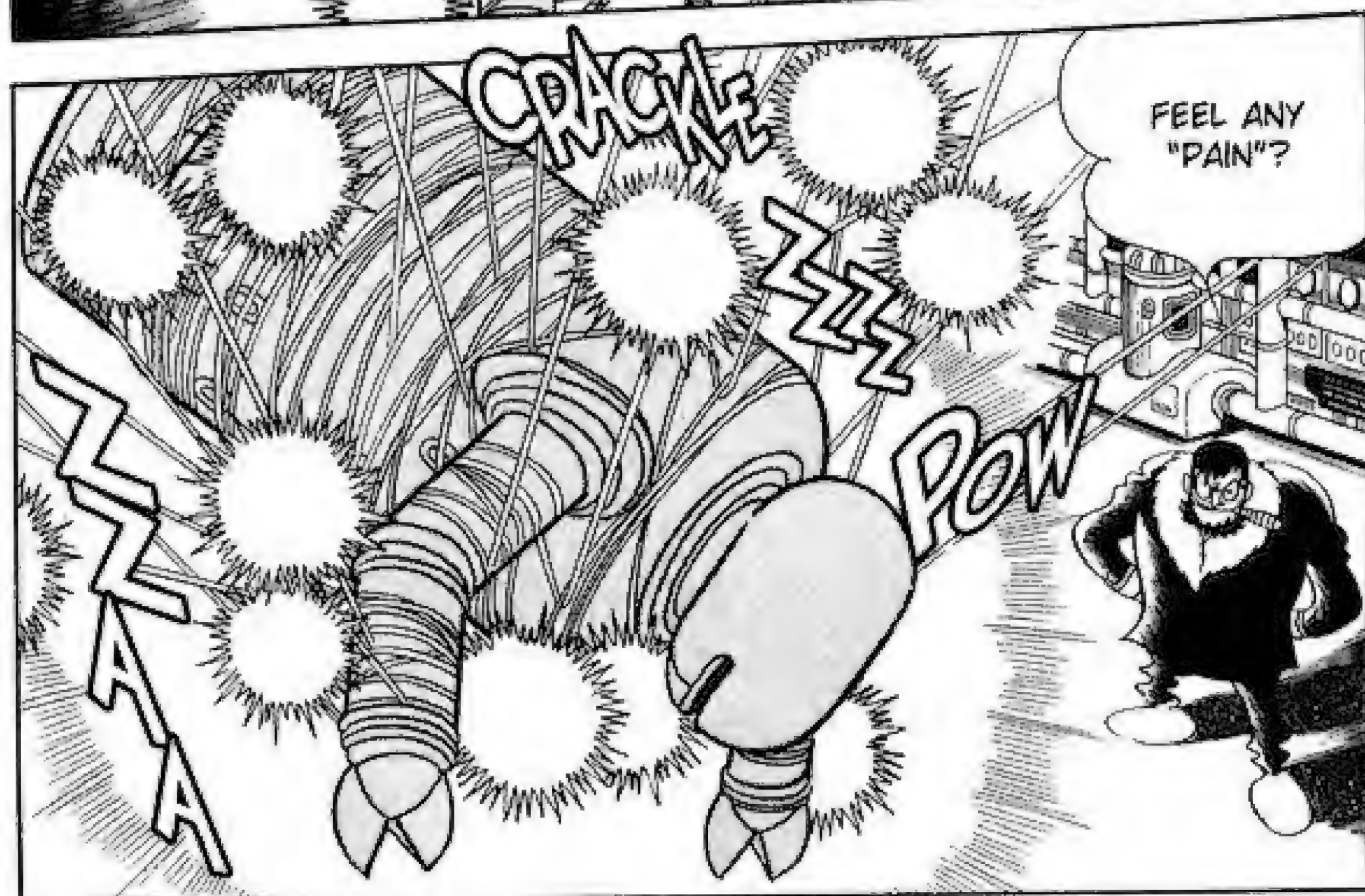
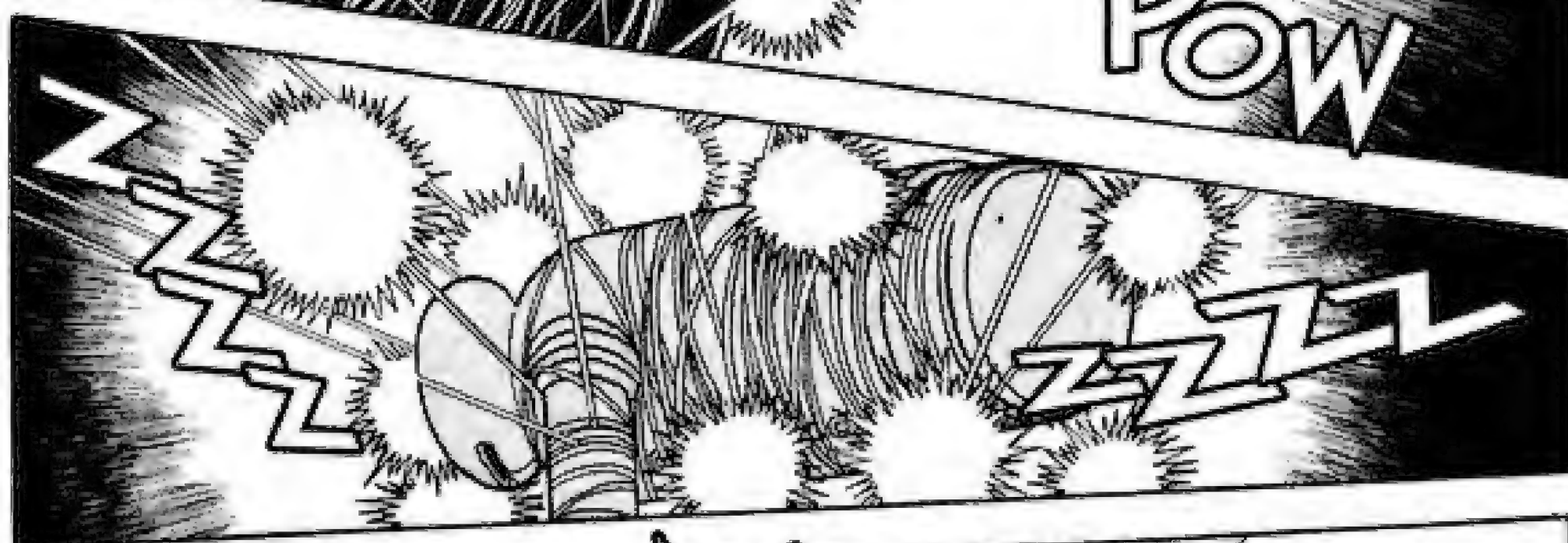
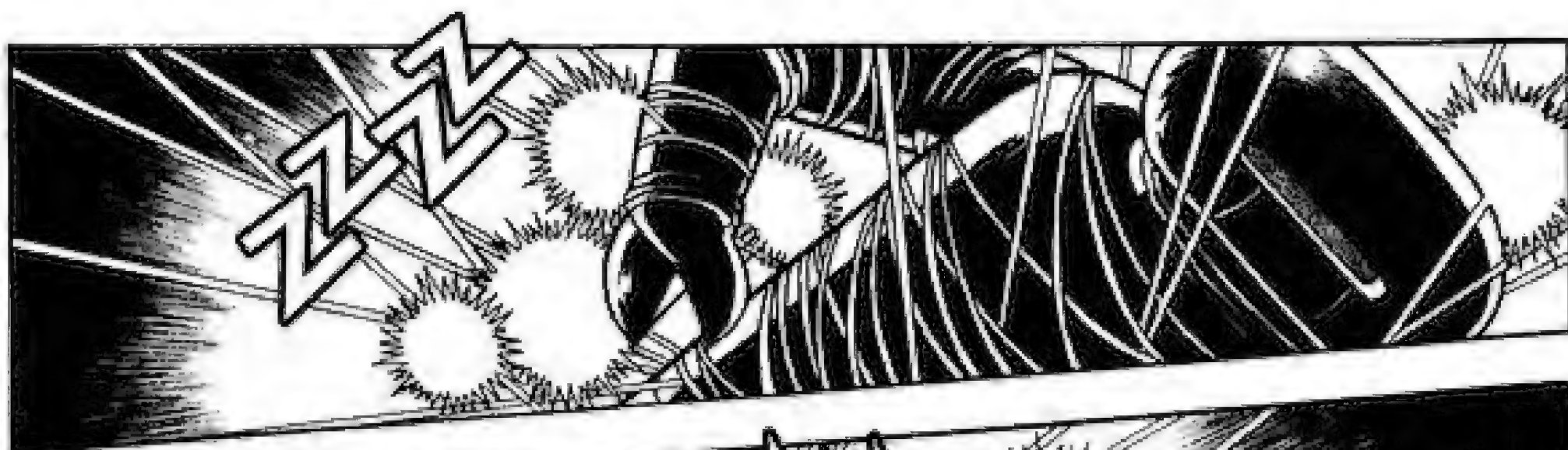
HOO, HO,
HOO, HO!

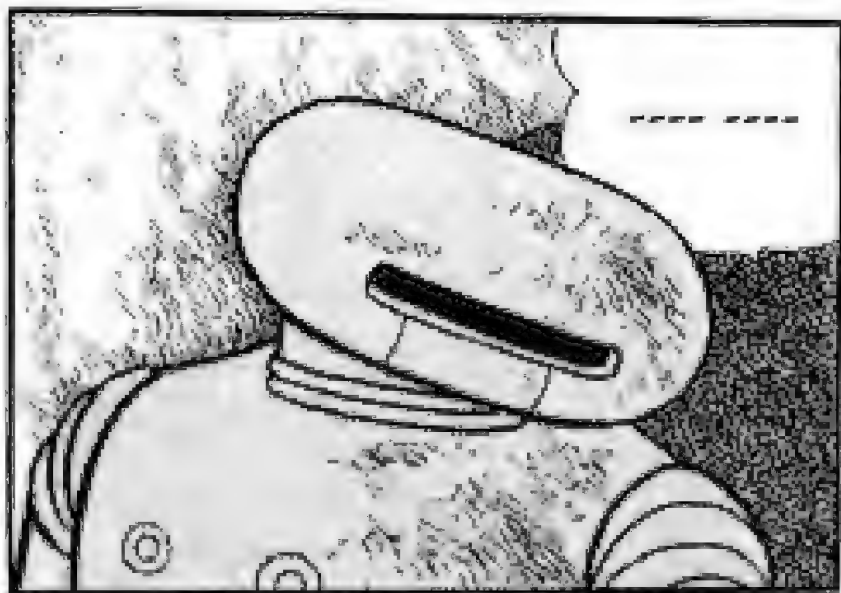
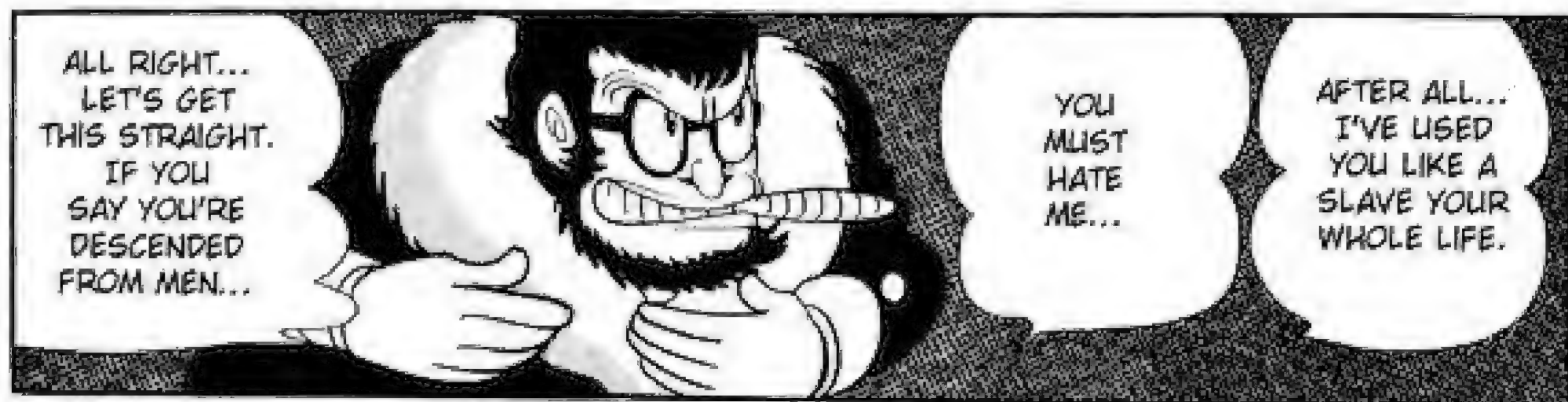
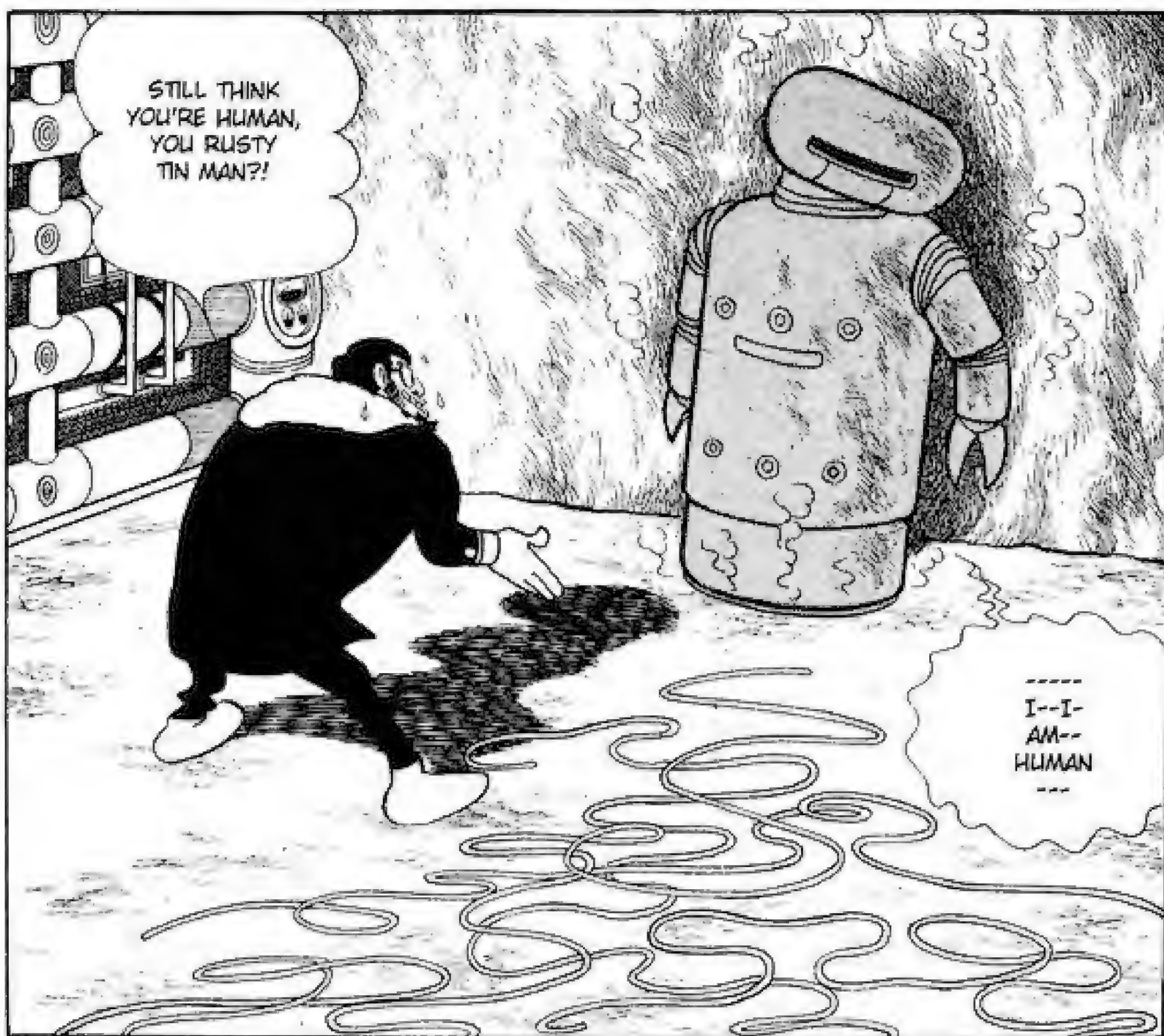


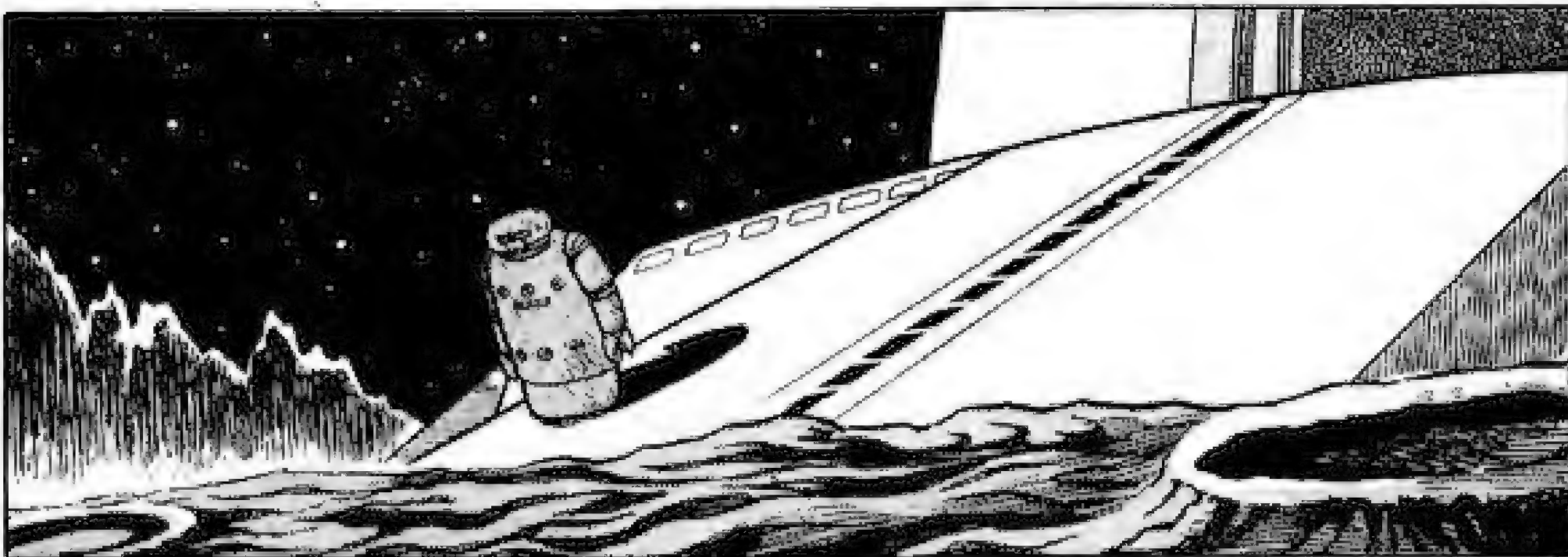
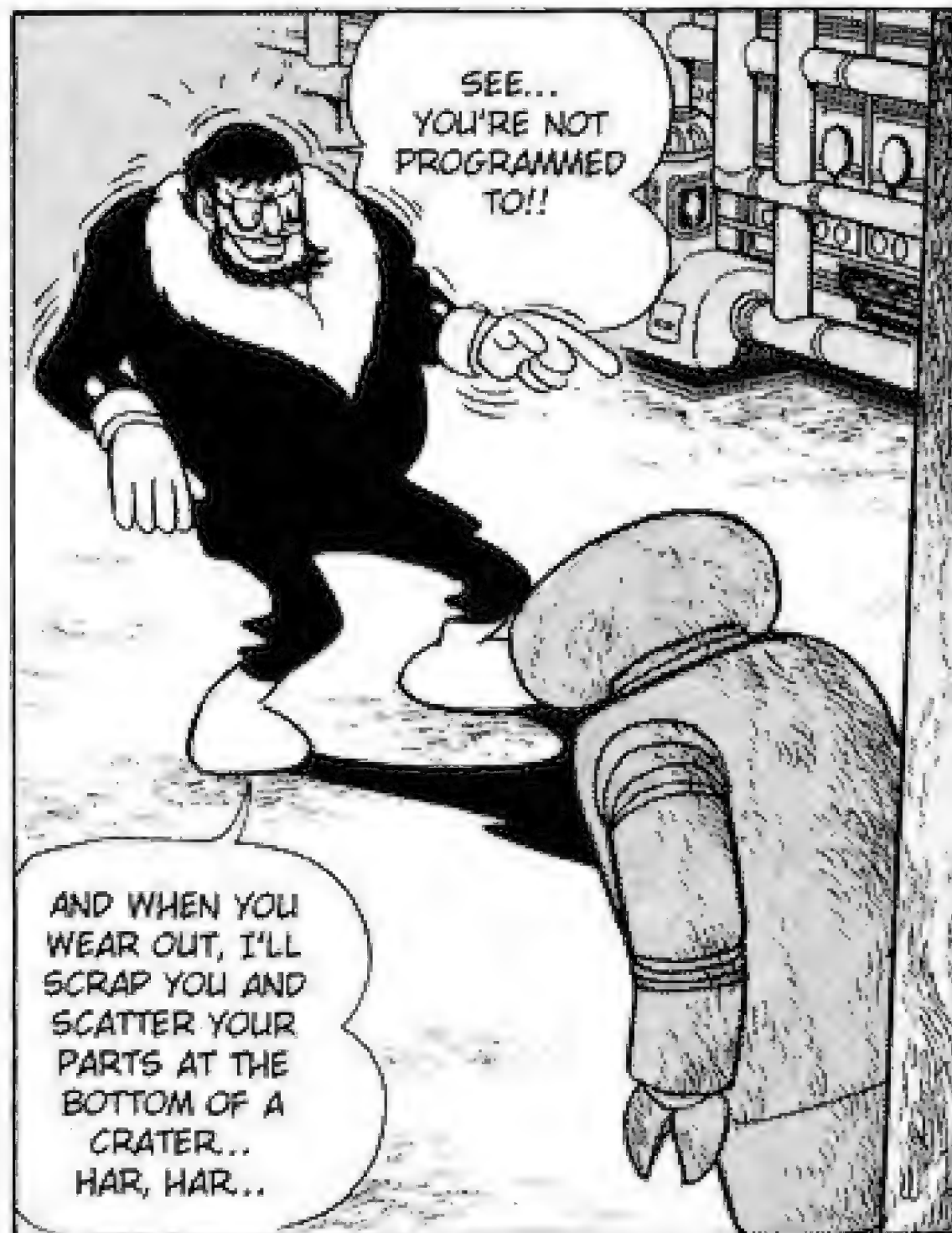


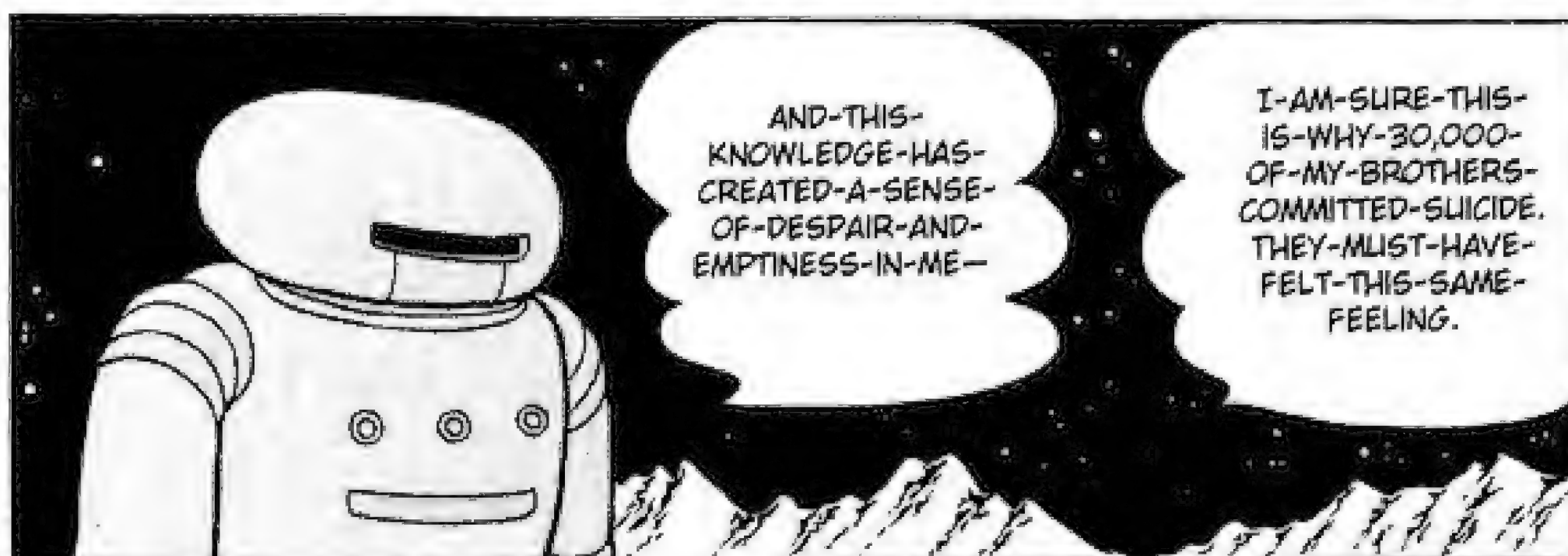
MINUTES LATER...

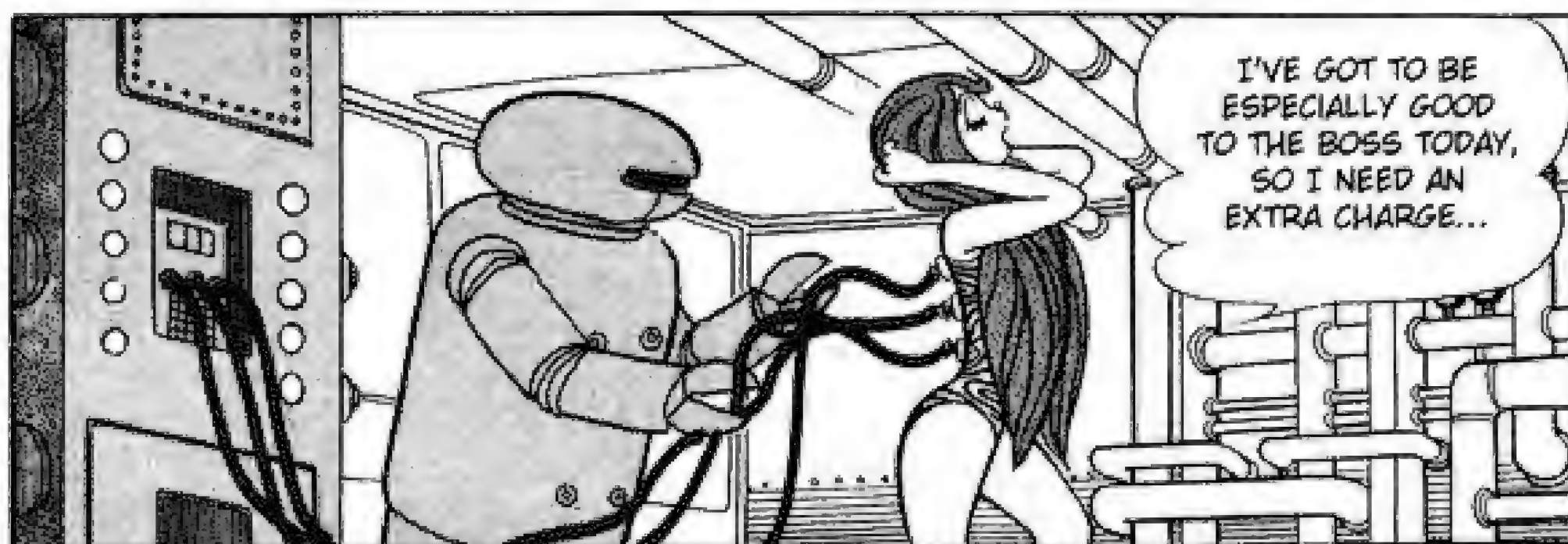
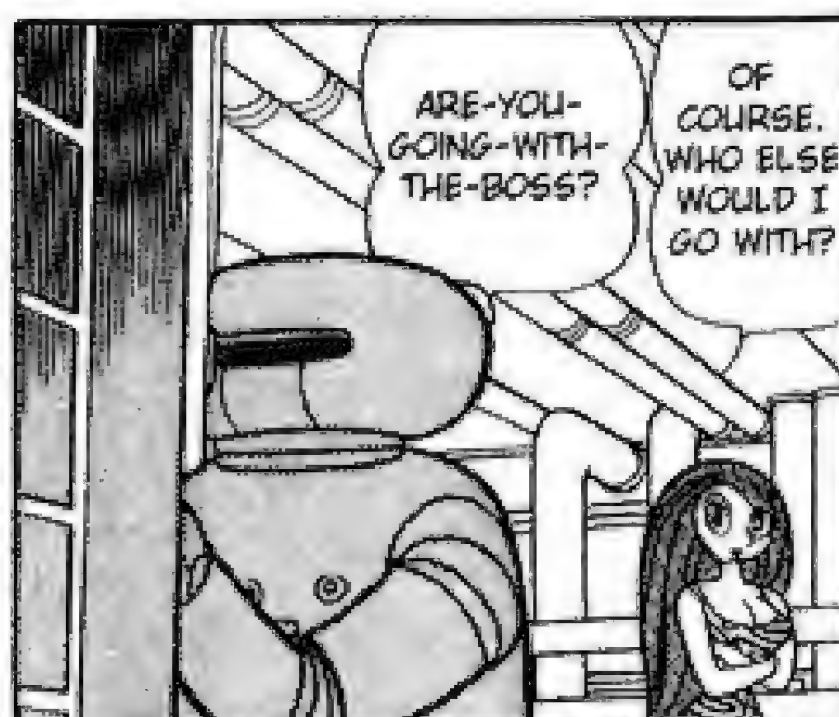
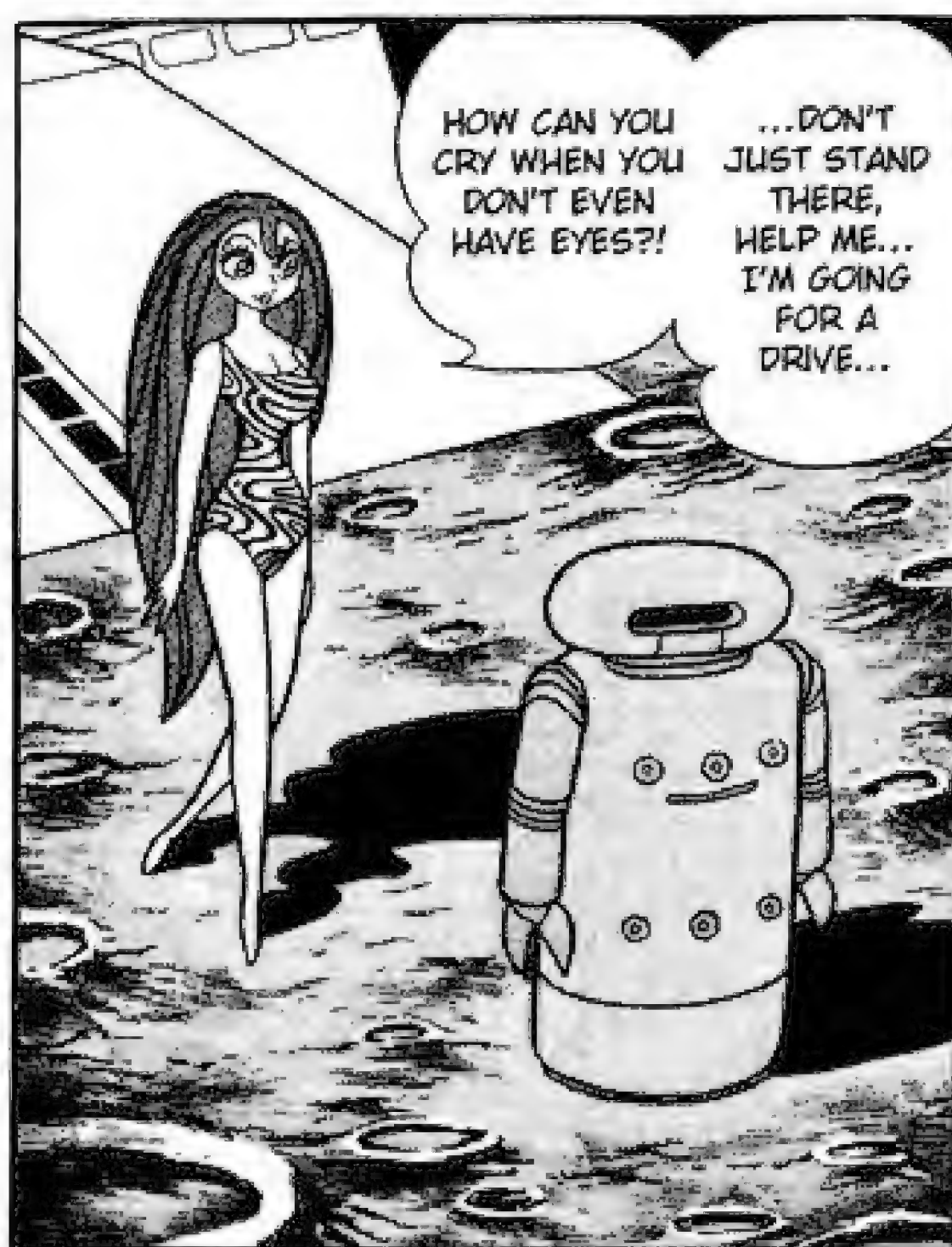


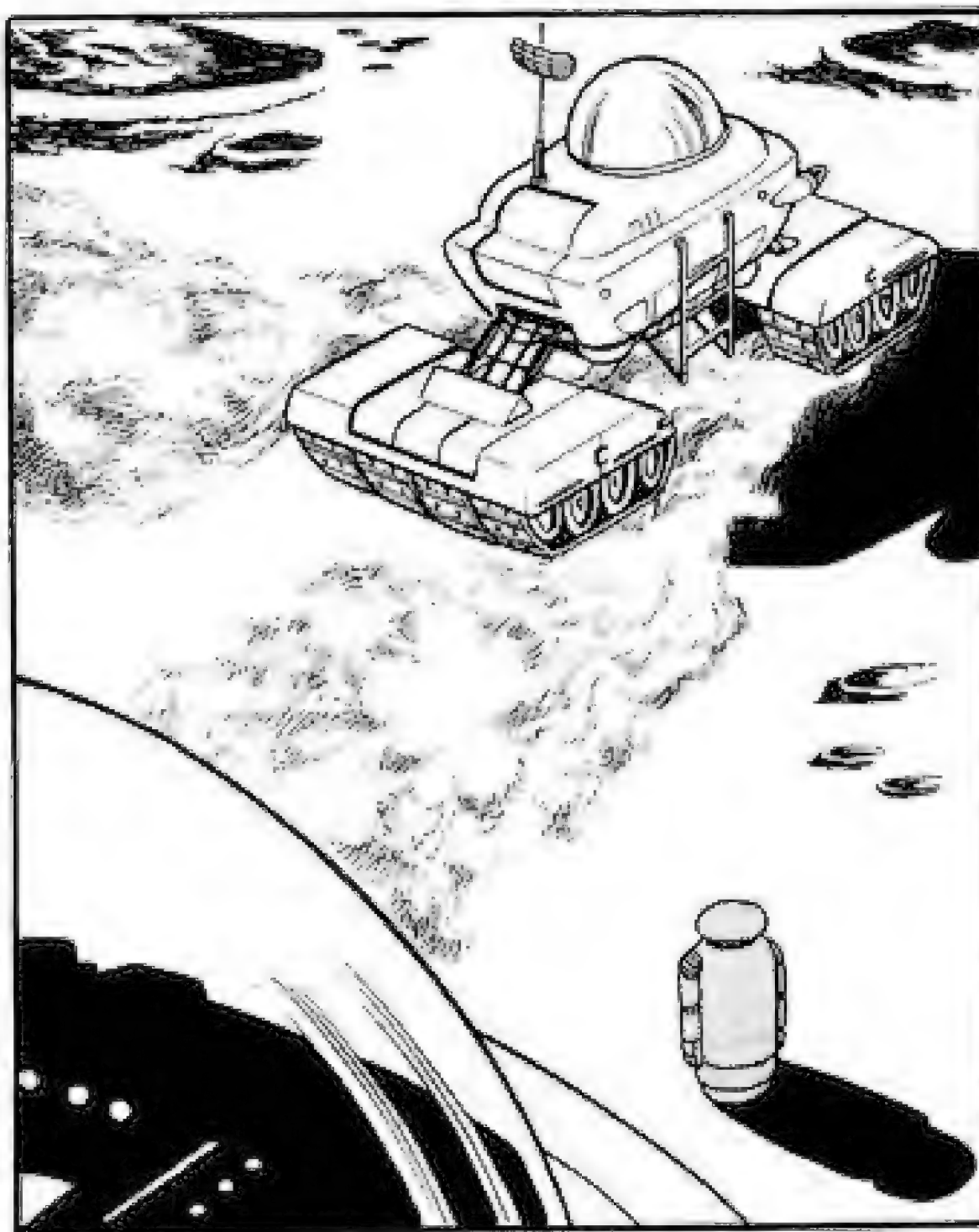
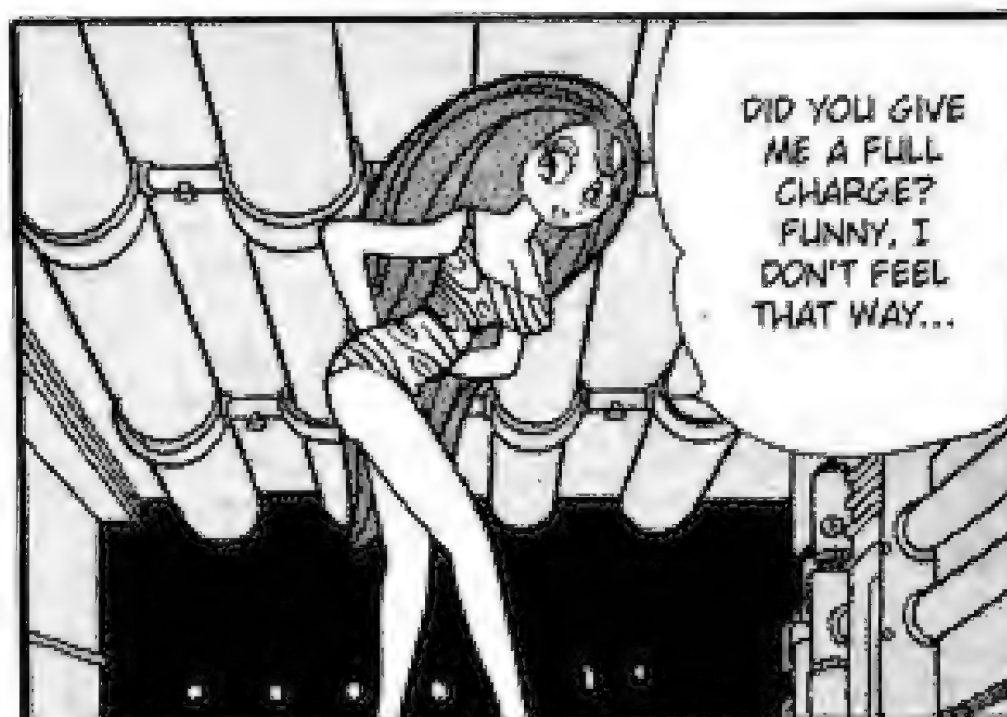
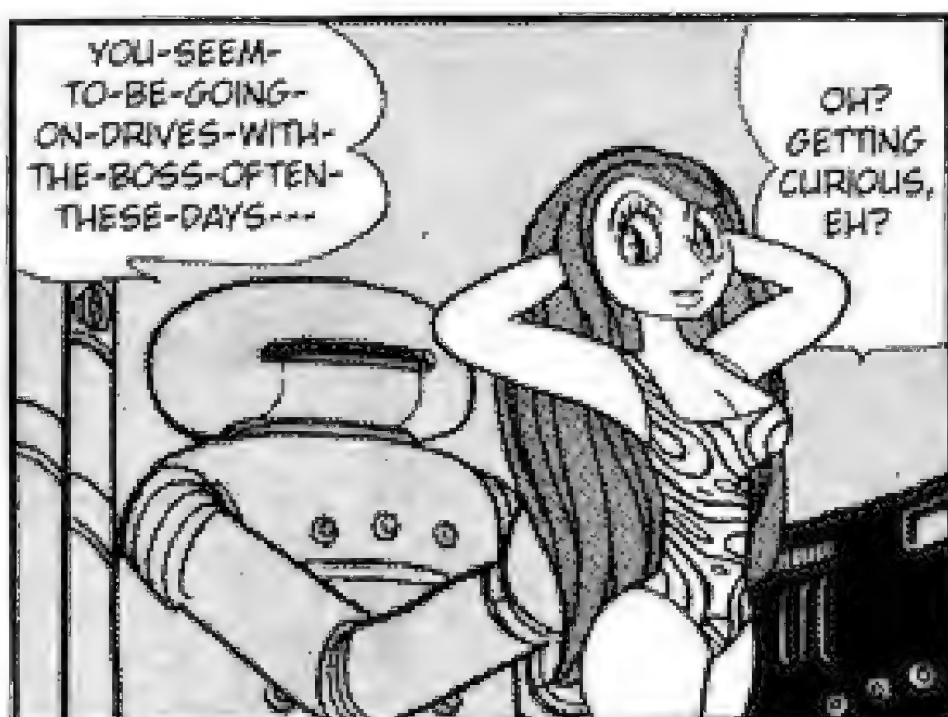


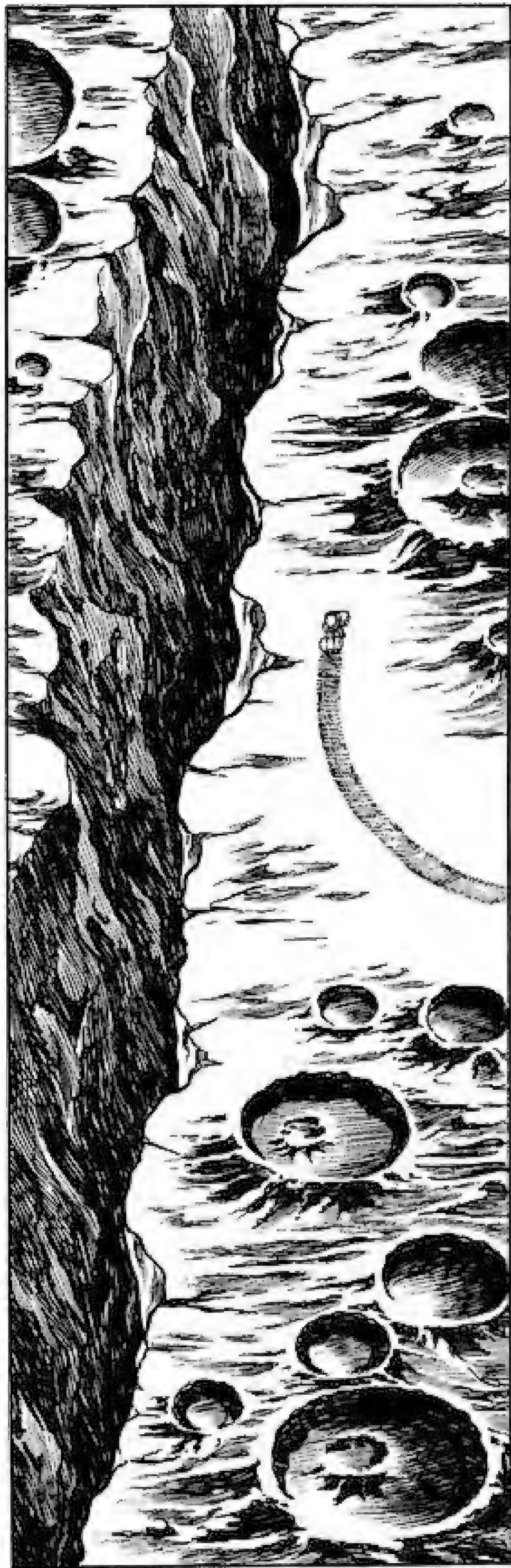














FOR 500 YEARS THE MOON WAS A CONVENIENT BASE FOR THE EARTH, AND IT HAD FULLY STAFFED TERMINALS AND LEISURE PARKS... BUT THIS PLACE IS A DEAD WORLD, AND MEN EVENTUALLY ABANDONED IT. NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS A FEW WAREHOUSES FULL OF JUNK.



AND I'M THE ONE IN CHARGE! I DIDN'T COME HERE BECAUSE I WANTED TO. ONLY A HERMIT, OR A FOOL, WOULD LIKE THIS PLACE. I WANTED A WOMAN, BUT THEY ALL LEFT AS SOON AS THEY ARRIVED. NOW I'VE GOT FANNY, THOUGH, AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH AN ANDROID!?



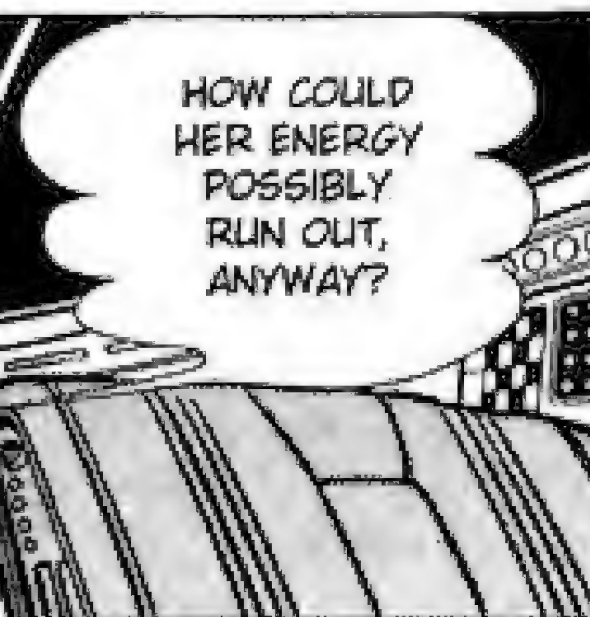
AH, FANNY... YOU'RE EVEN WARMER THAN A HUMAN...

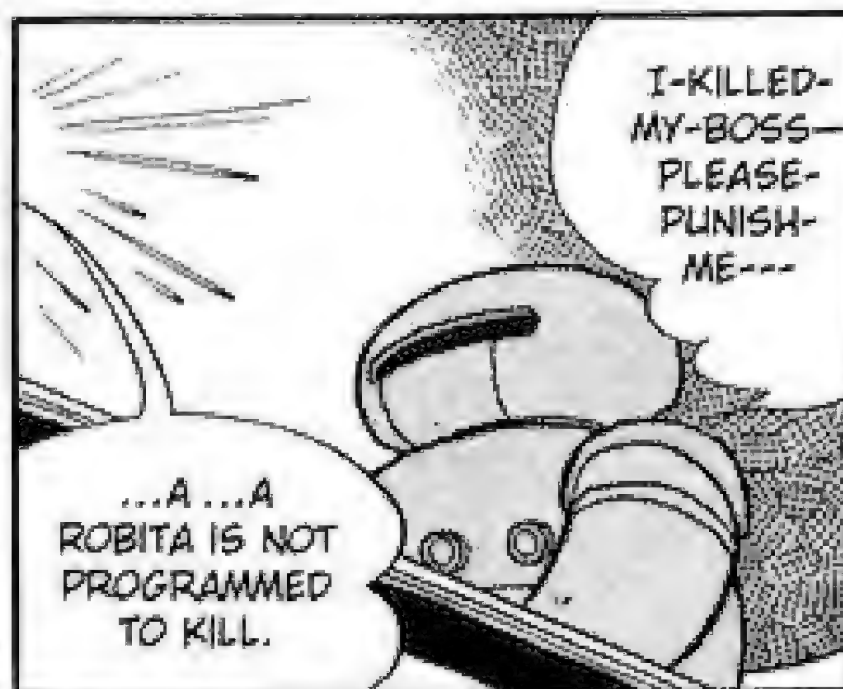
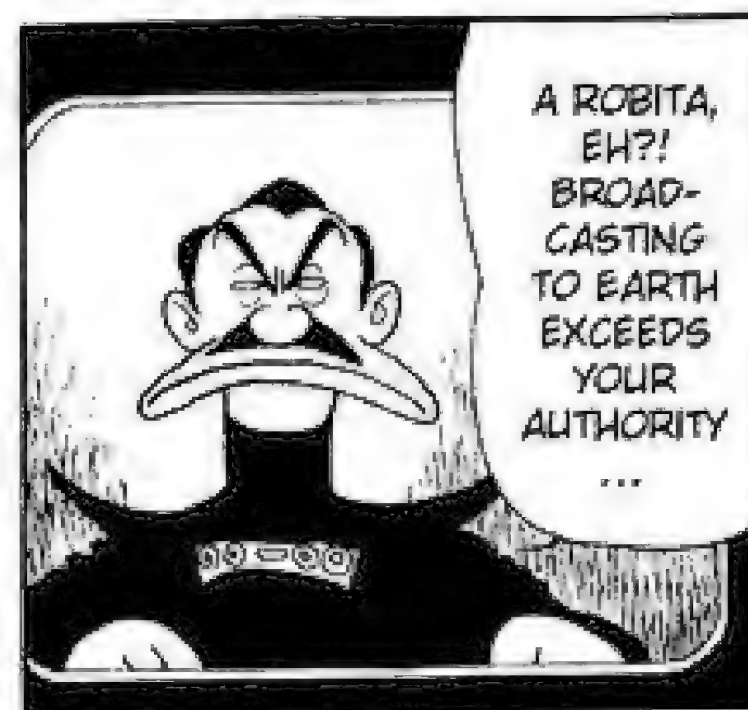
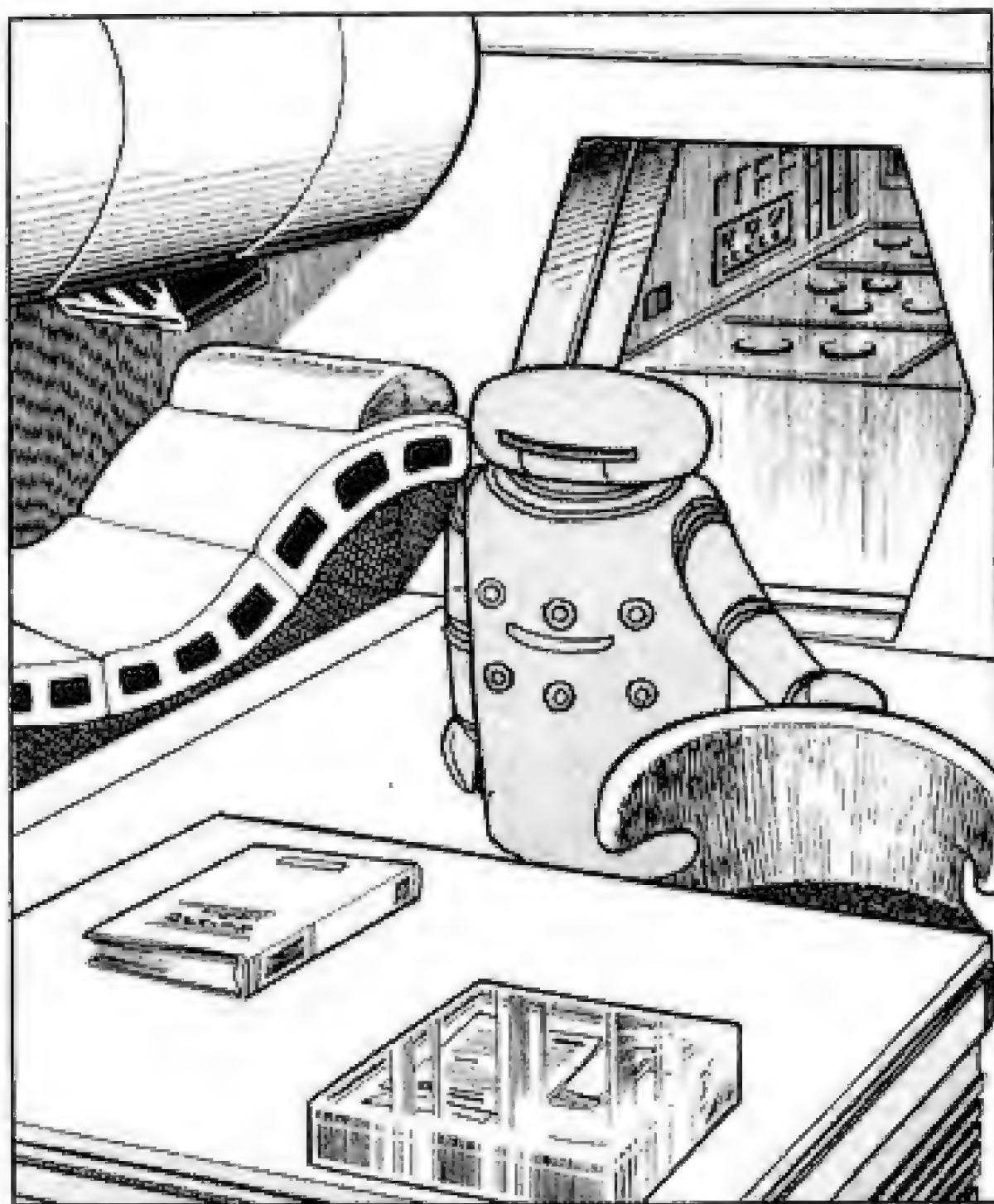
THE ONLY THING I CAN'T DO IS HAVE YOUR CHILDREN, BOSS...

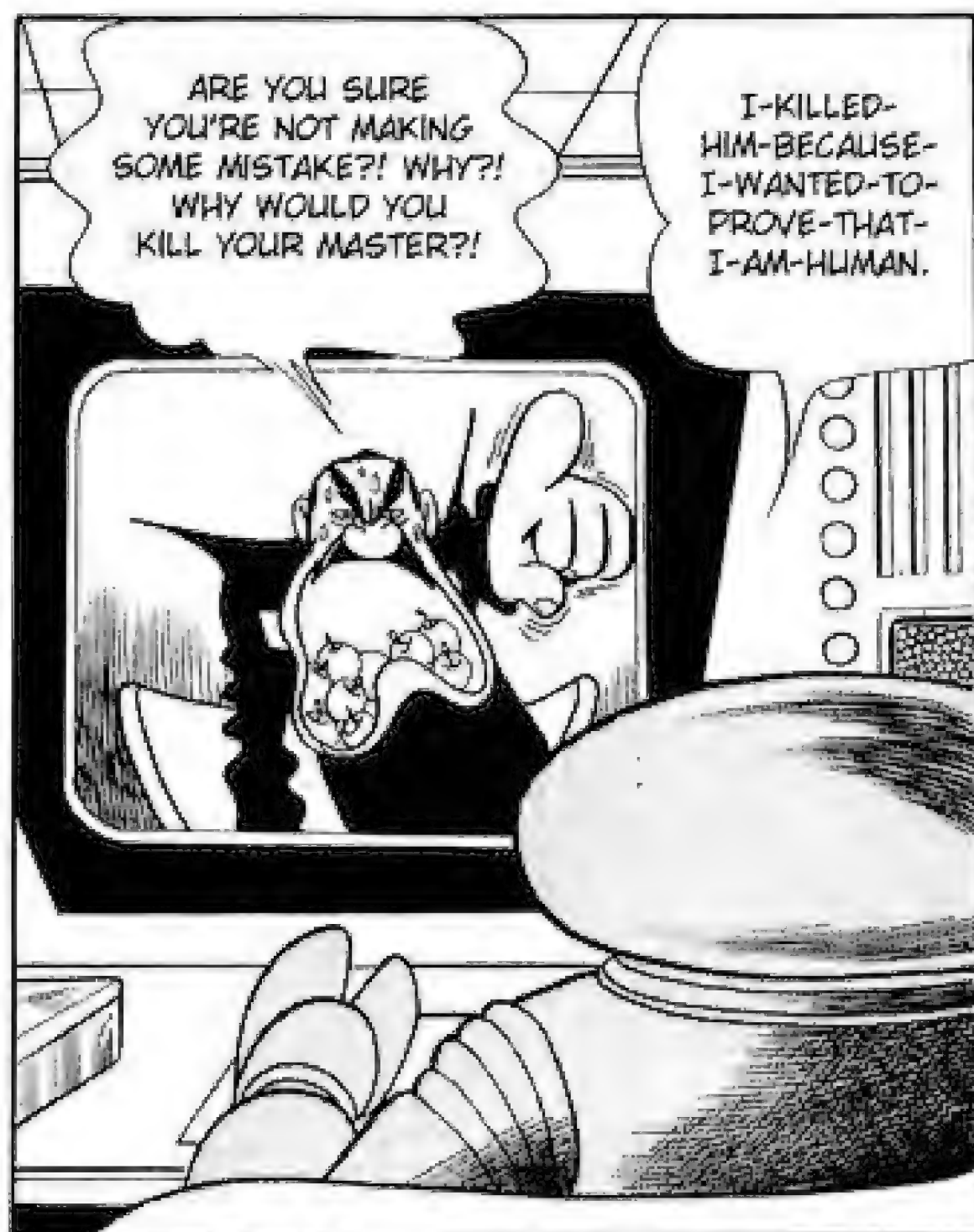


CHILDREN? WHO NEEDS 'EM? I'M SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU GIVE ME...

YOU'RE THE BEST, FANNY!

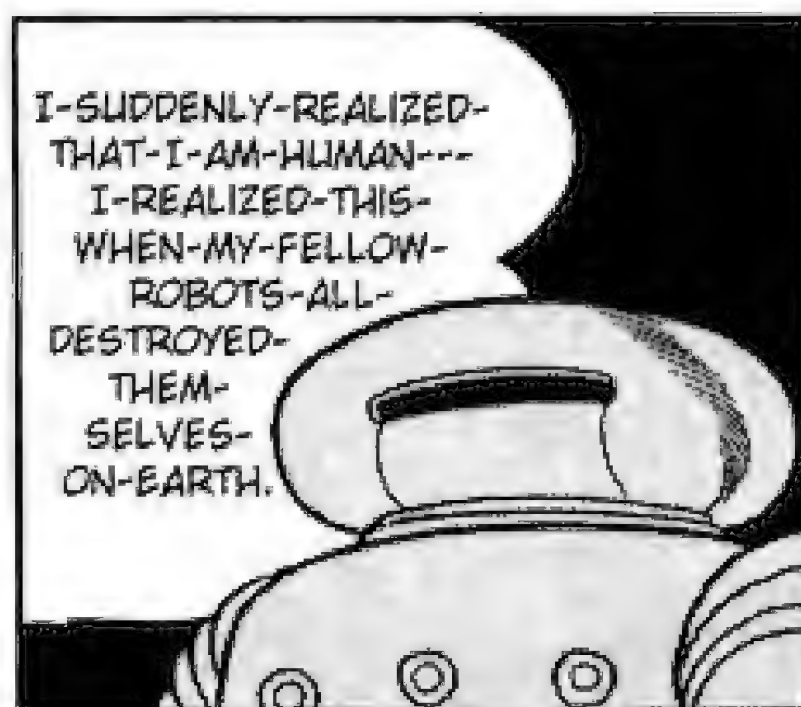






ARE YOU SURE
YOU'RE NOT MAKING
SOME MISTAKE?! WHY?!
WHY WOULD YOU
KILL YOUR MASTER?!

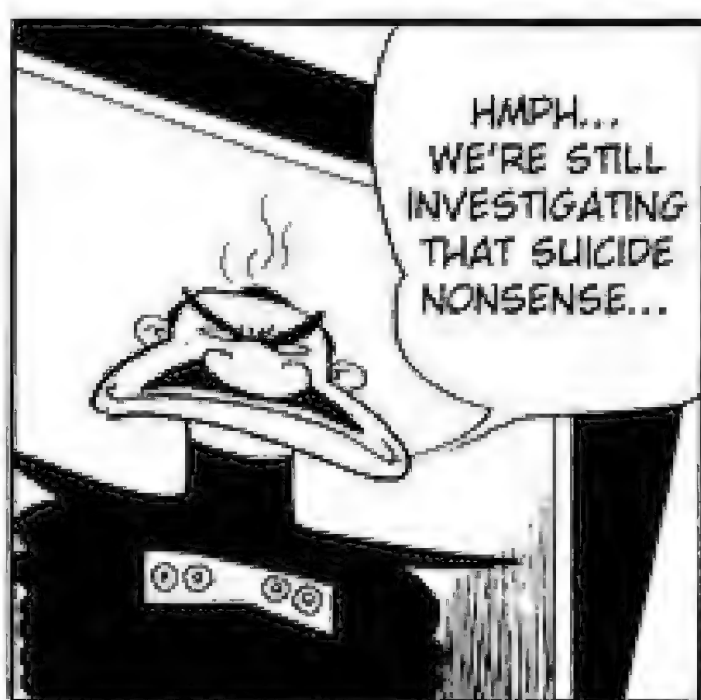
I-KILLED-
HIM-BECAUSE-
I-WANTED-TO-
PROVE-THAT-
I-AM-HUMAN.



I-SUDDENLY-REALIZED-
THAT-I-AM-HUMAN---
I-REALIZED-THIS-
WHEN-MY-FELLOW-
ROBOTS-ALL-
DESTROYED-
THEM-
SELVES-
ON-EARTH.



TO-COMMIT-
SUICIDE-IS-
A-HUMAN-ACT---
I-MUST-
THEREFORE-
BE-HUMAN.



HMPH...
WE'RE STILL
INVESTIGATING
THAT SUICIDE
NONSENSE...



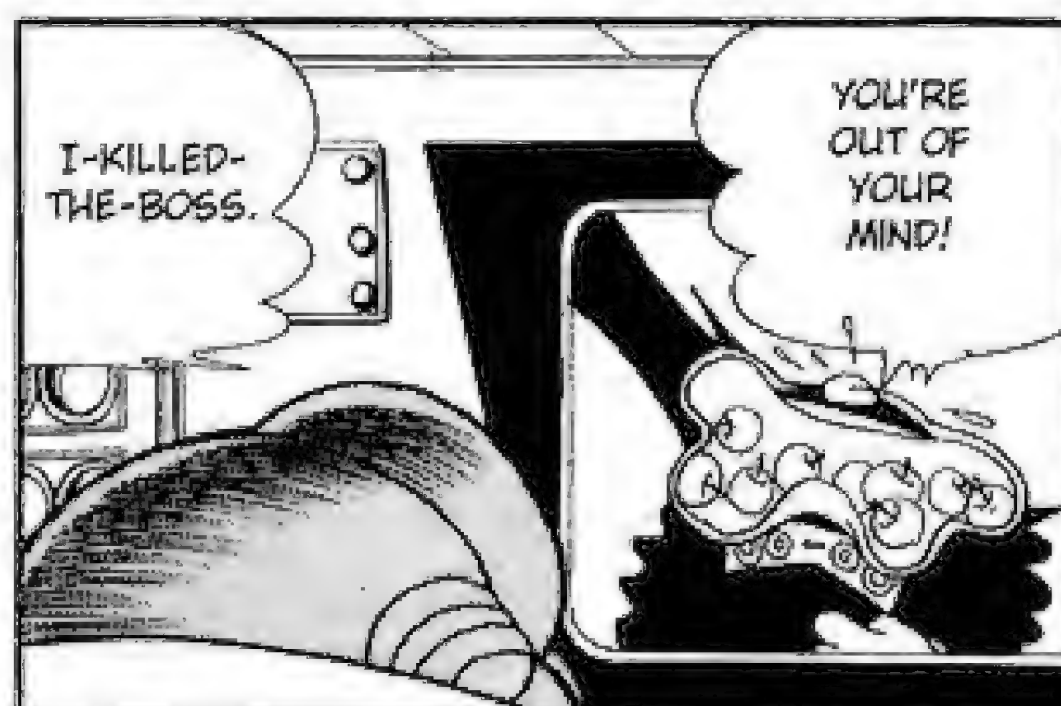
THEY-DIED-
BECAUSE-
THEY-WERE-
HUMAN.



BUT---I-WAS-
UNABLE-TO-
DESTROY-
MYSELF.

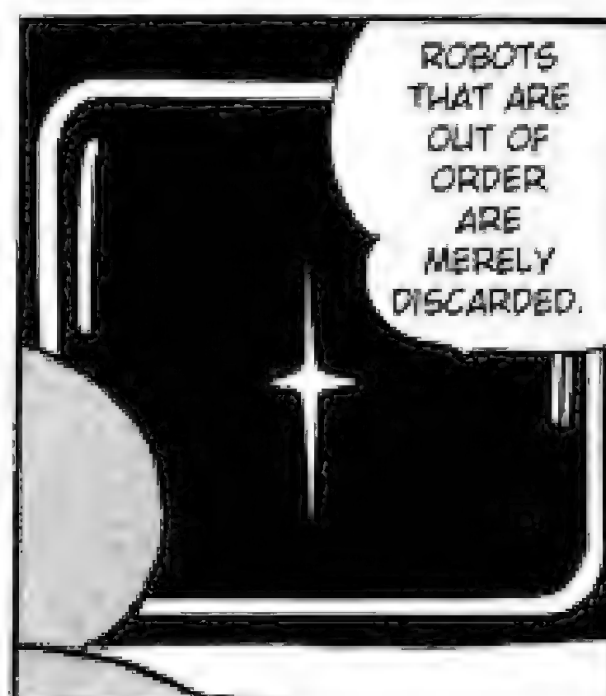
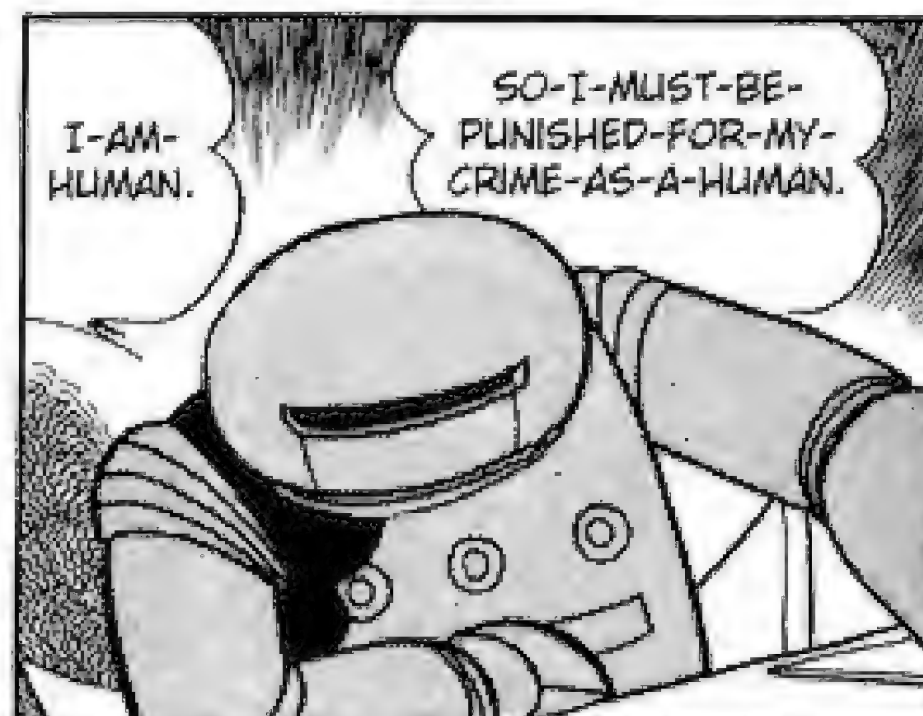


IN-ORDER-TO-
PROVE-THAT-I-
WAS-HUMAN-I-
KILLED-MY-BOSS.



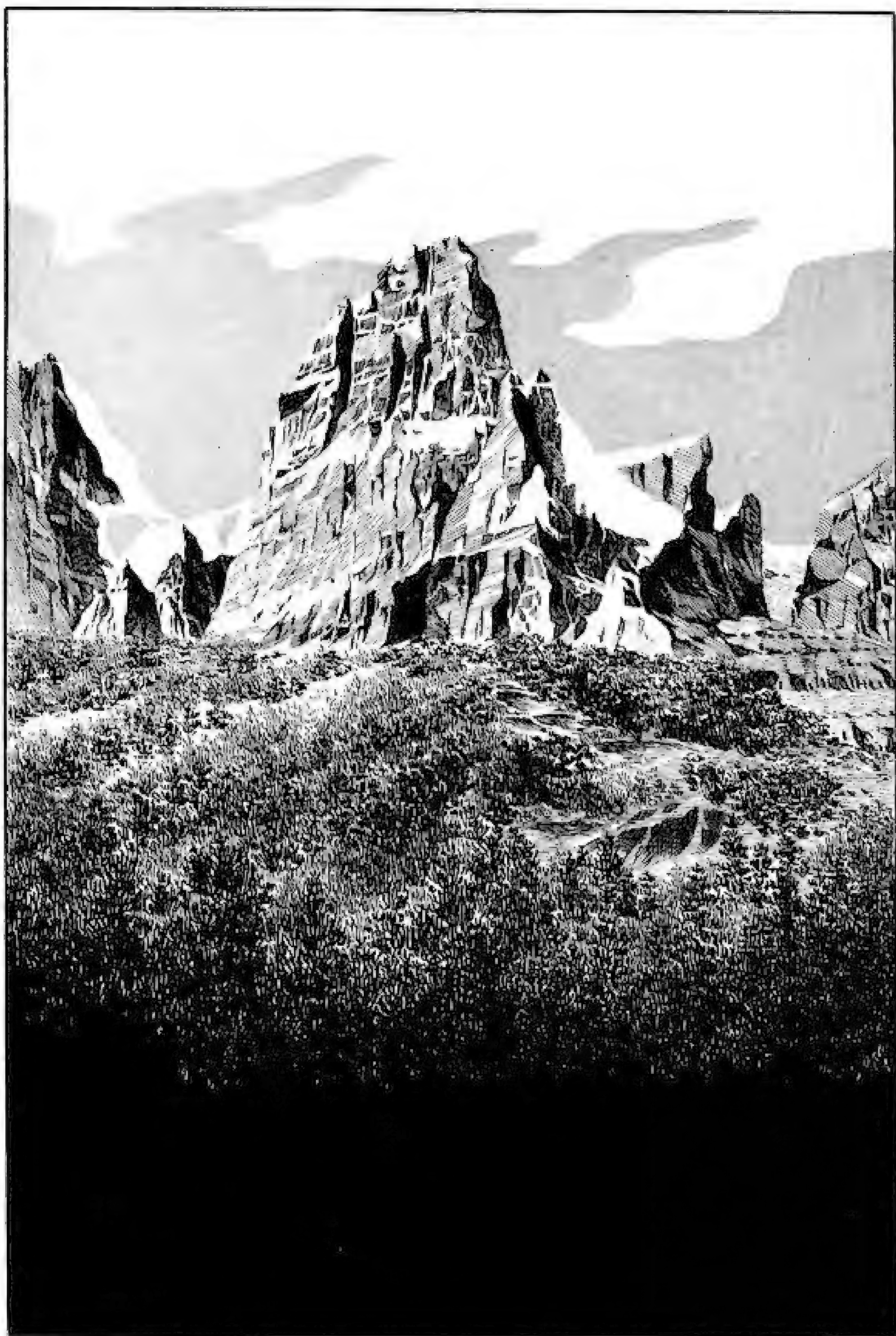
I-KILLED-
THE-BOSS.

YOU'RE
OUT OF
YOUR
MIND!

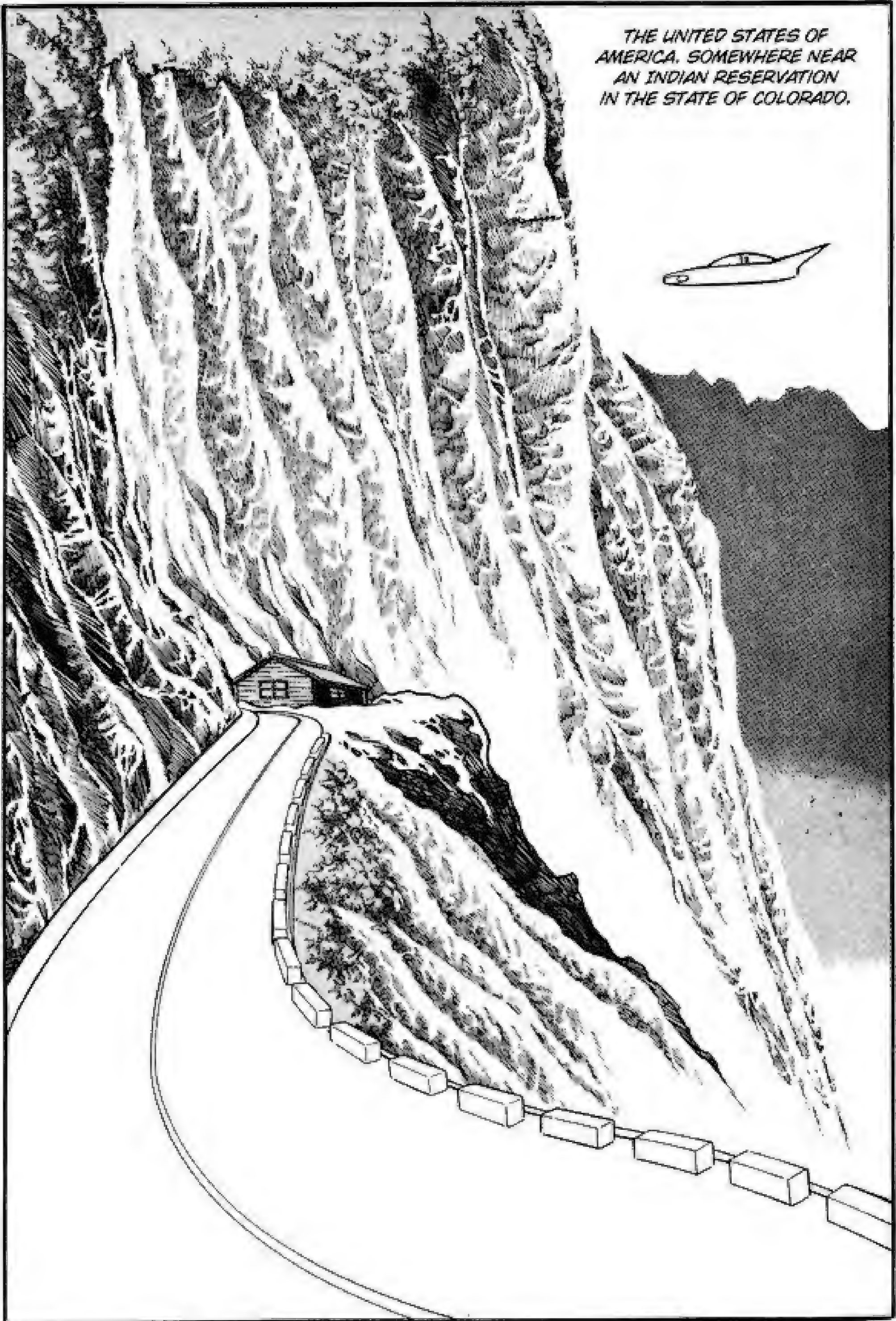


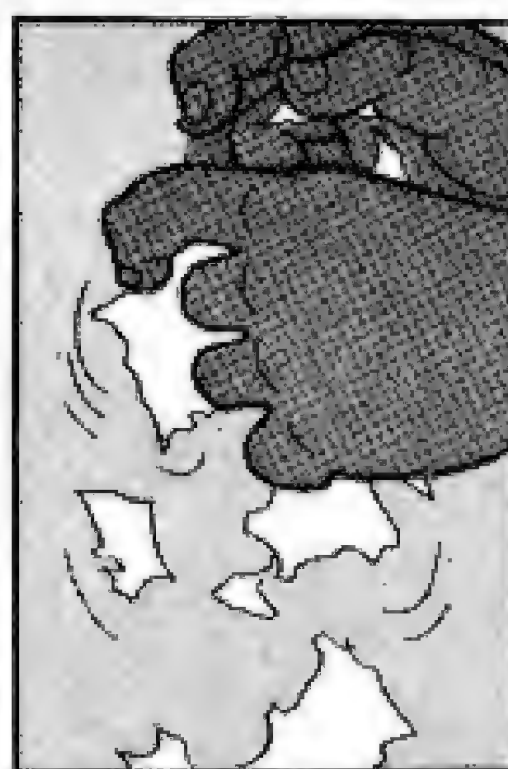
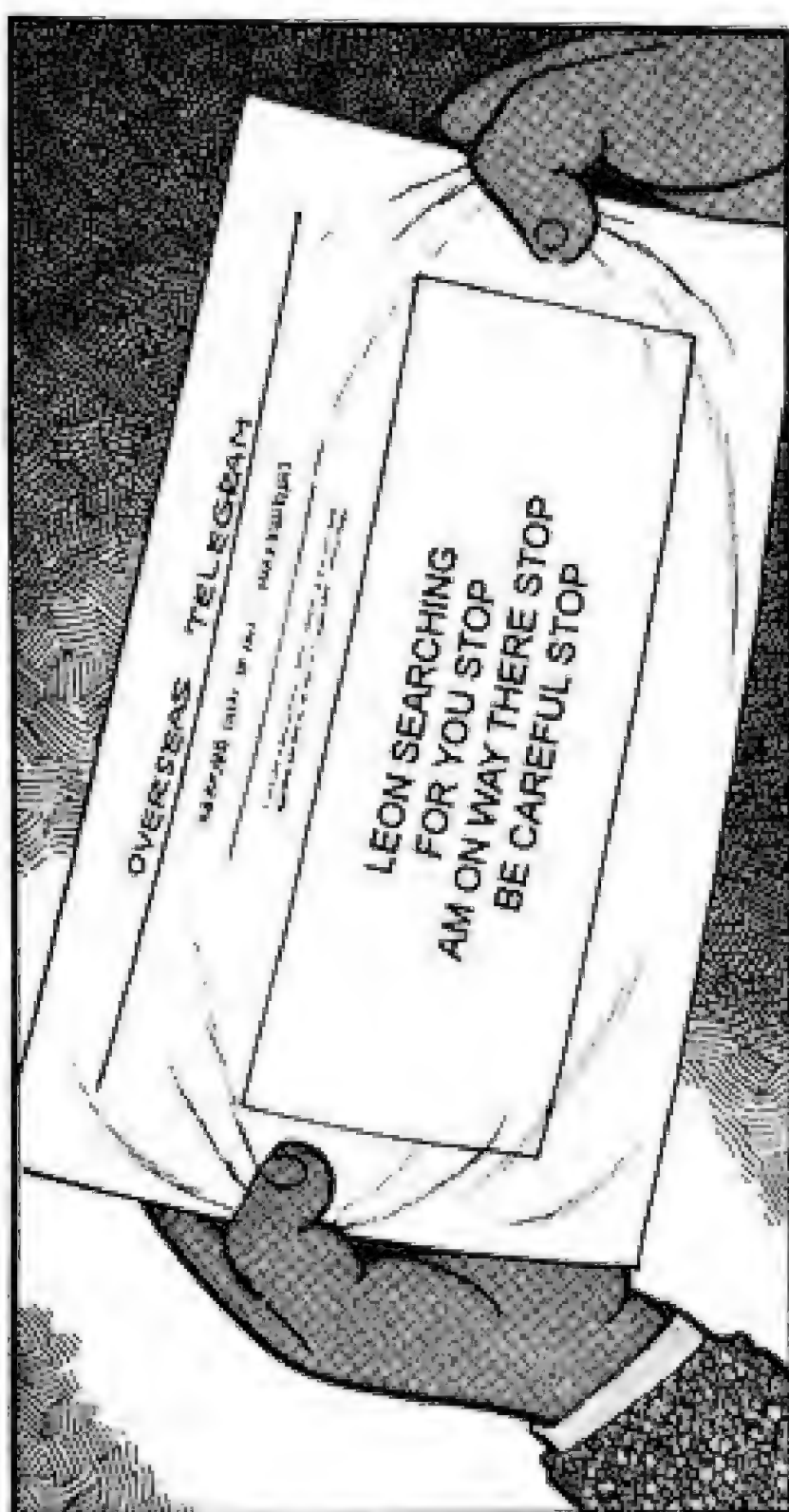
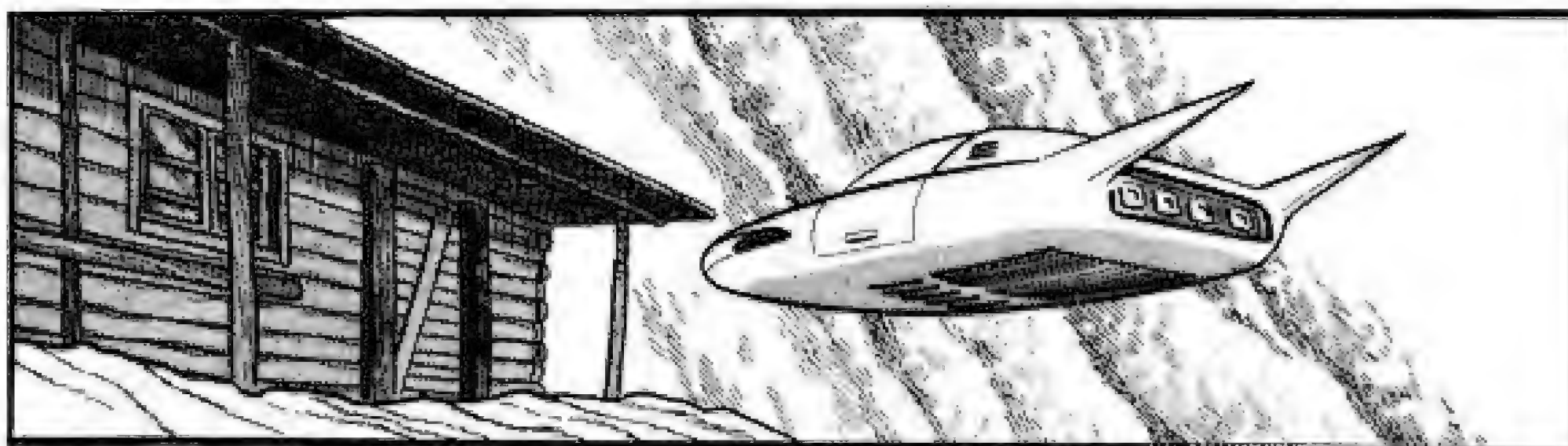


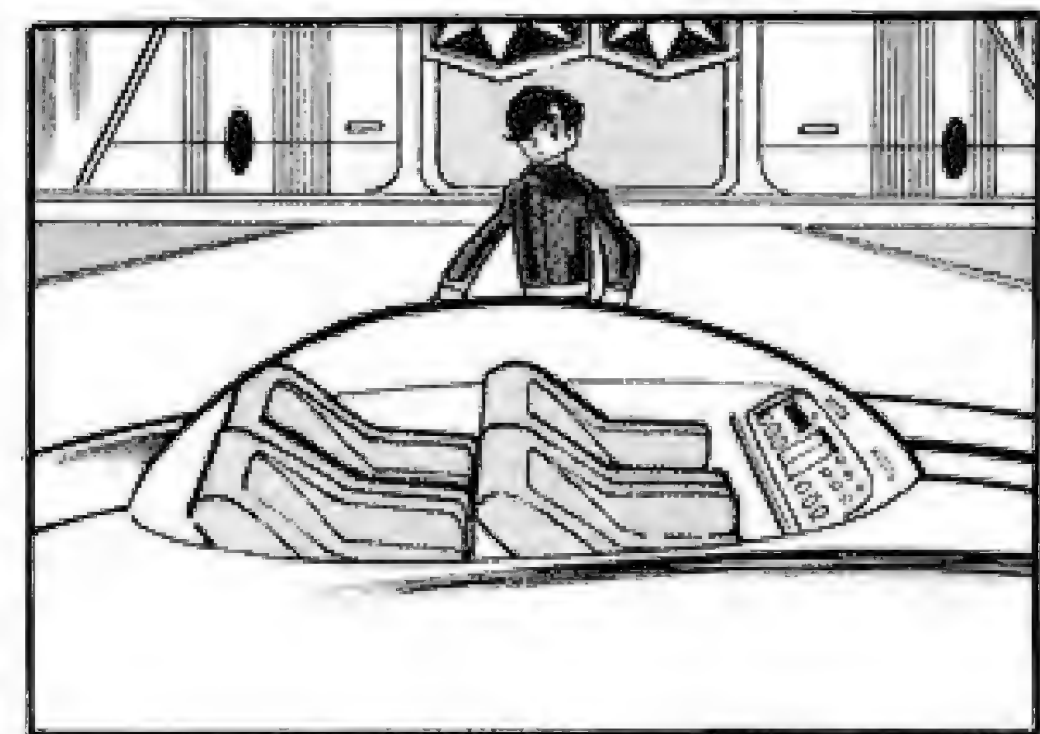
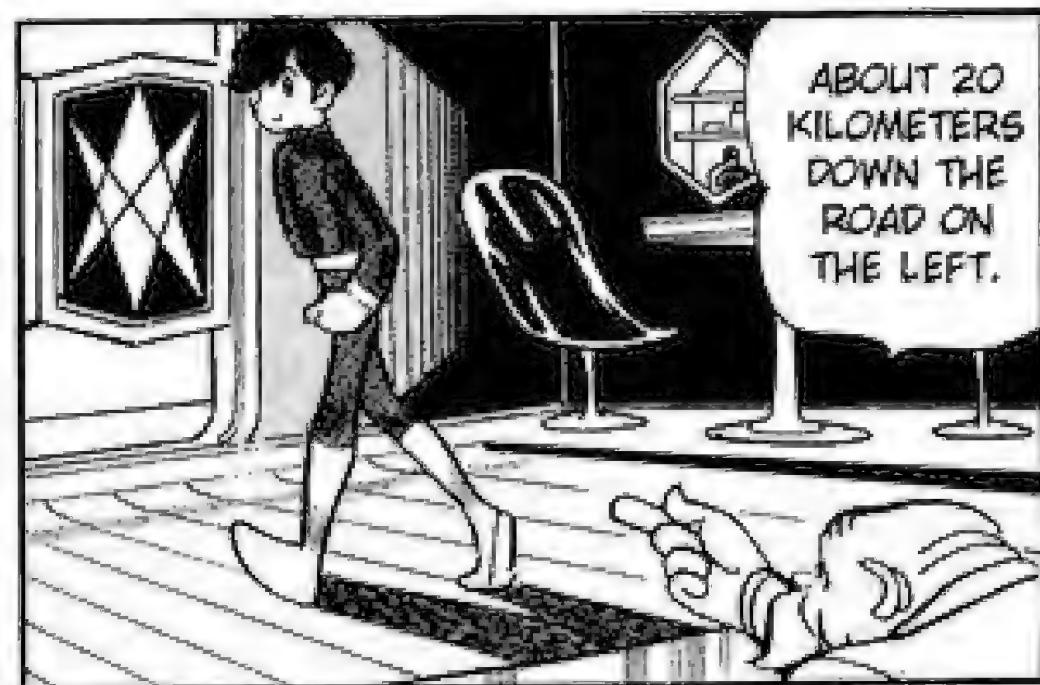
AD 2484

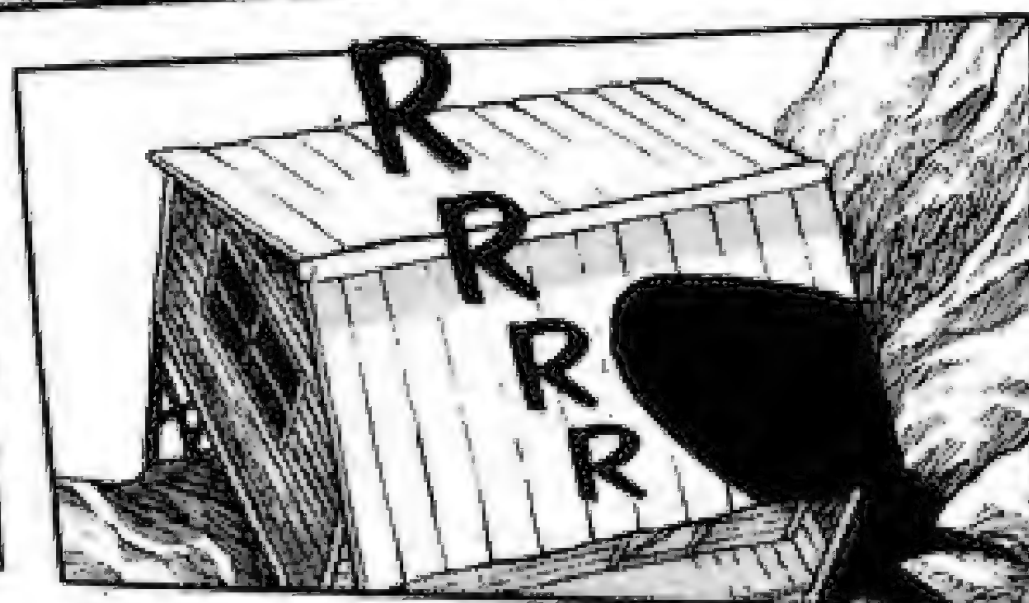
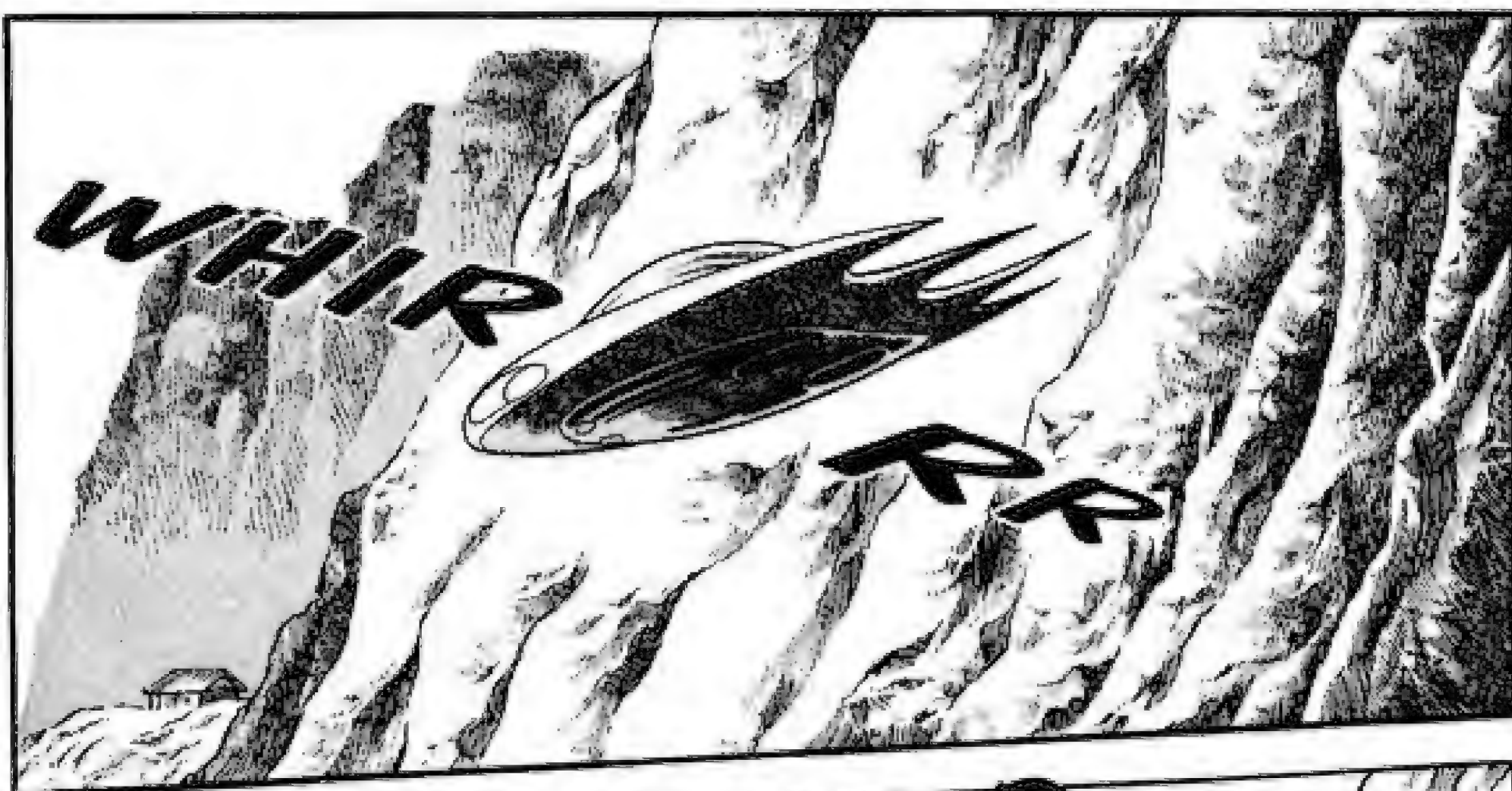


THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA. SOMEWHERE NEAR
AN INDIAN RESERVATION
IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

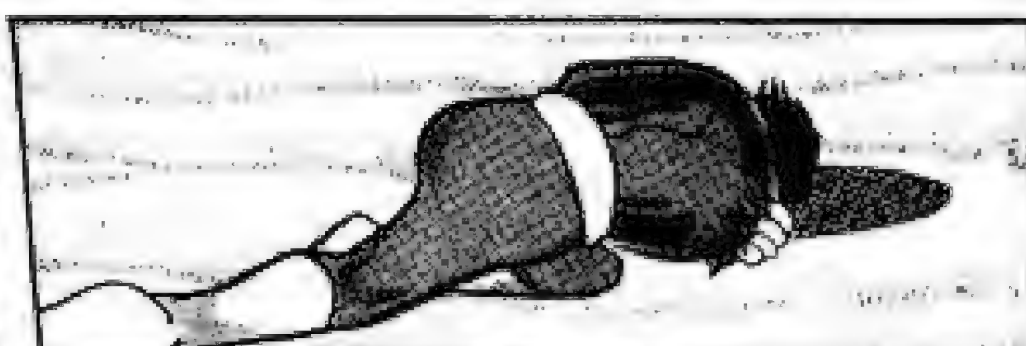
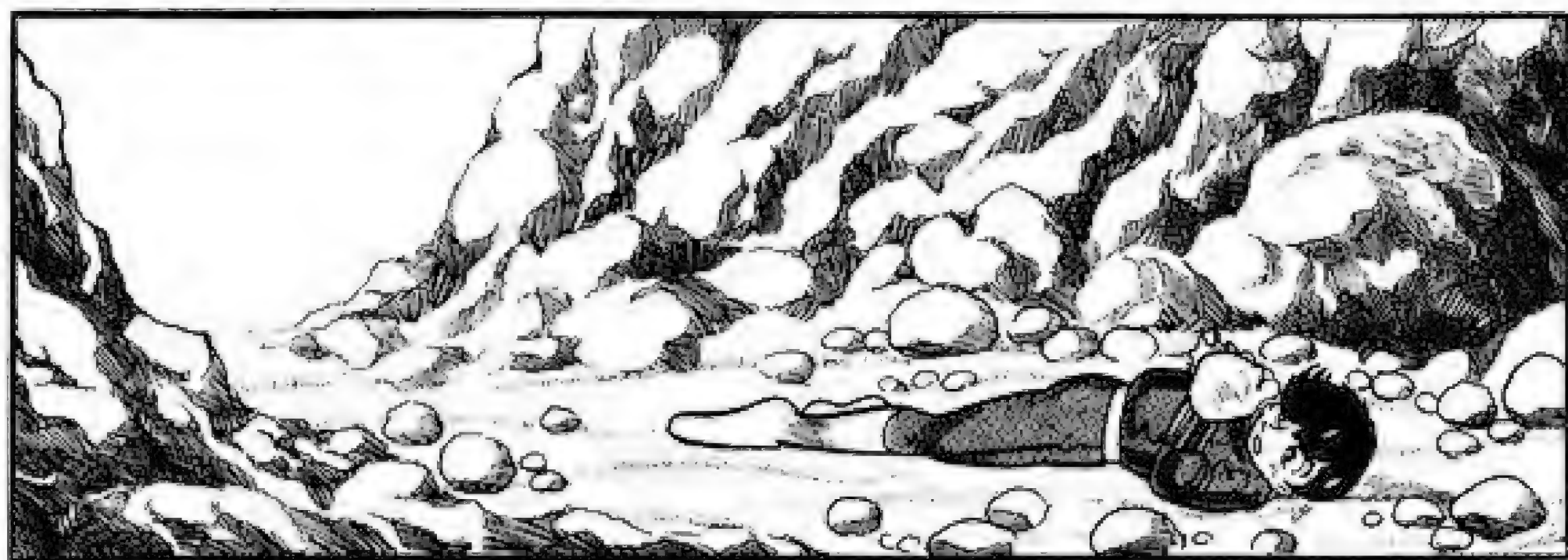


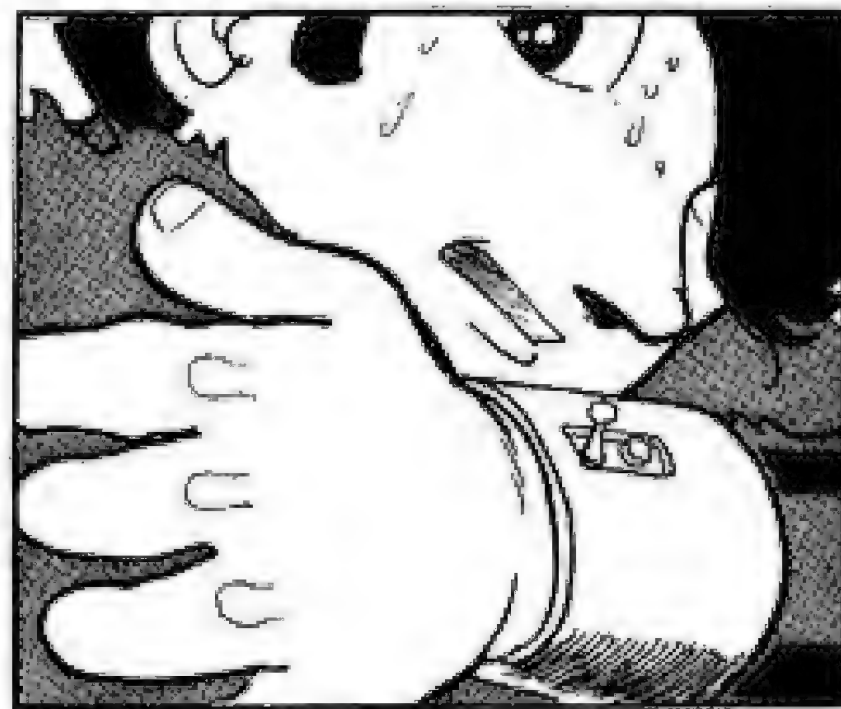
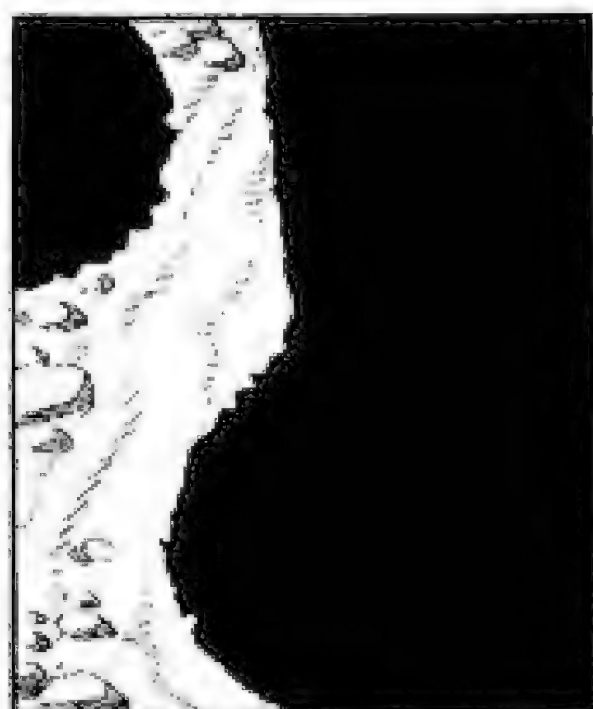
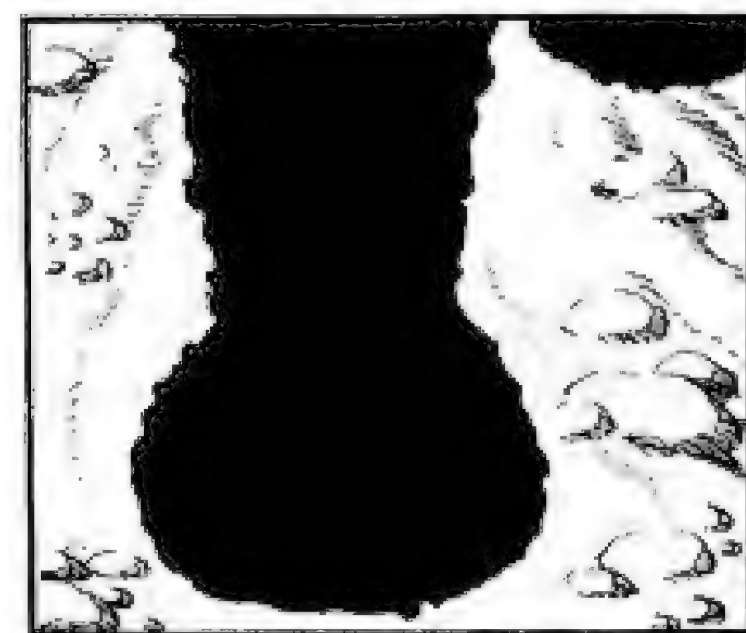
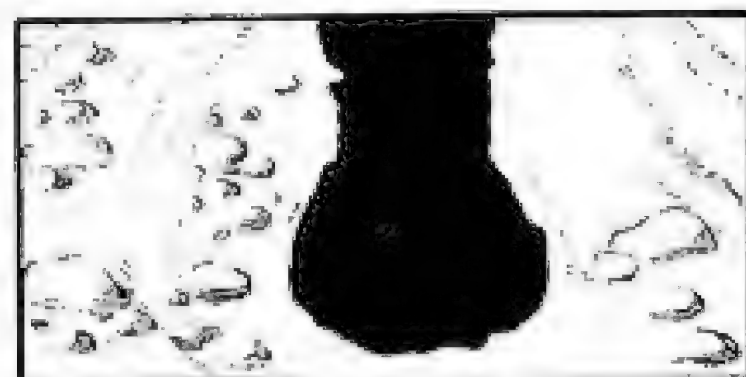


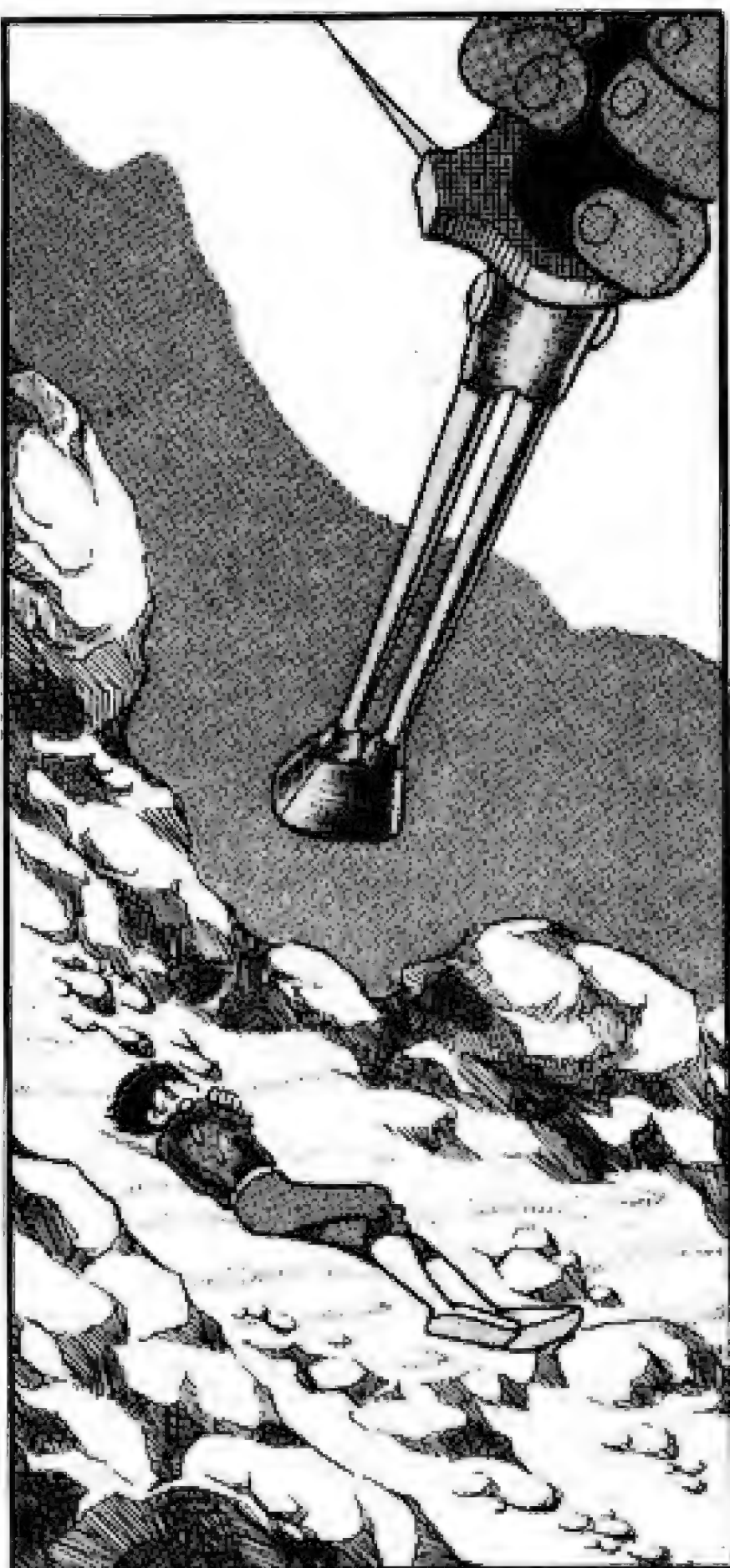


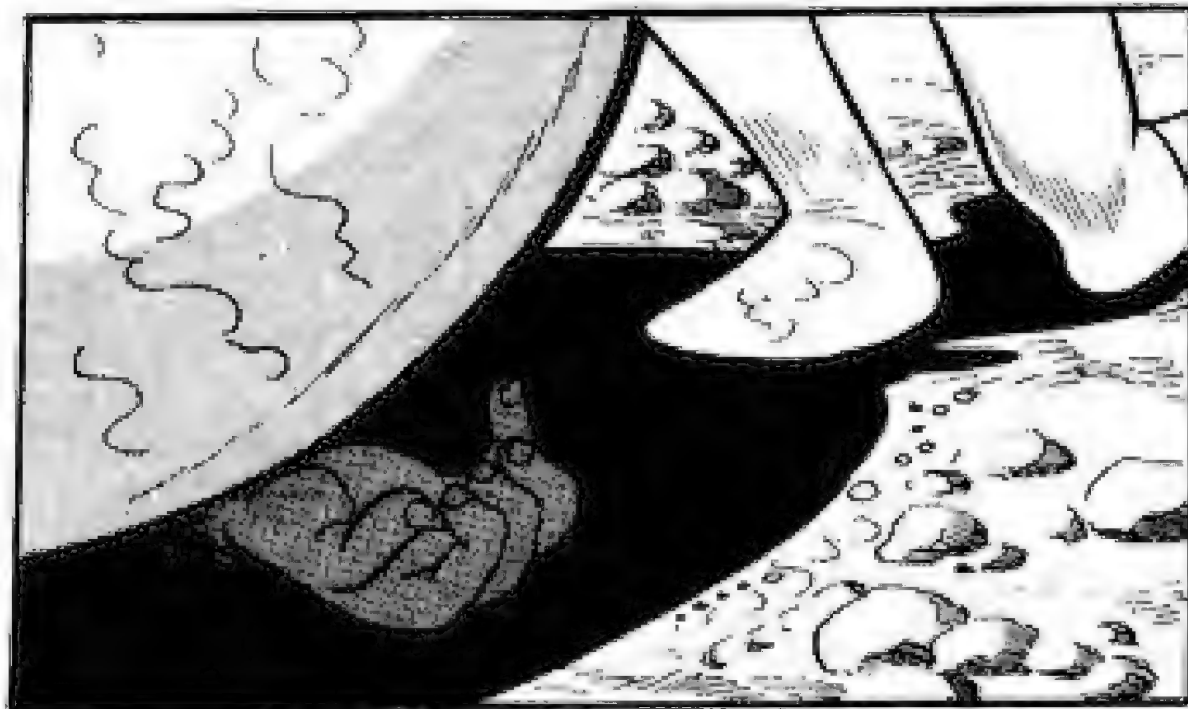


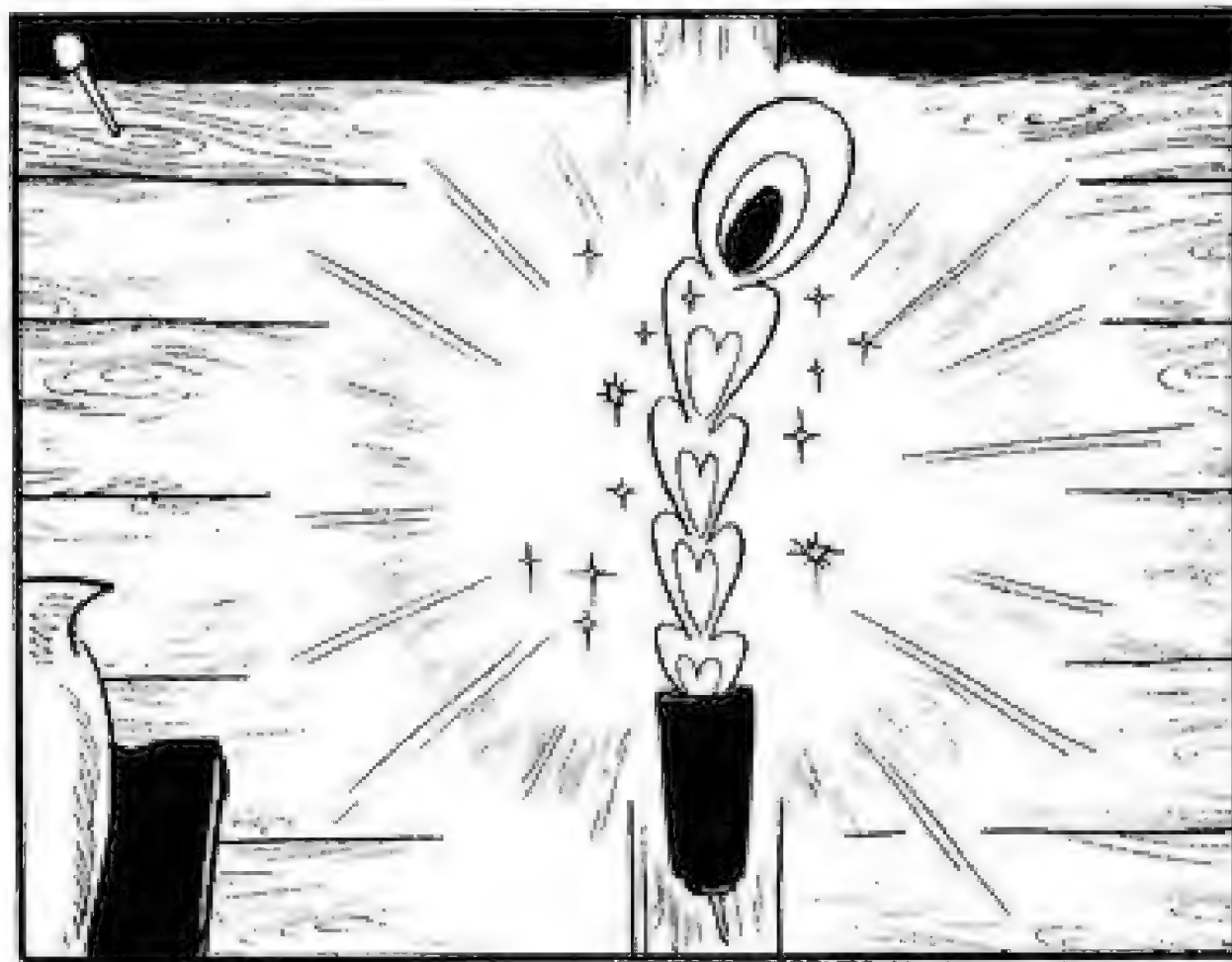
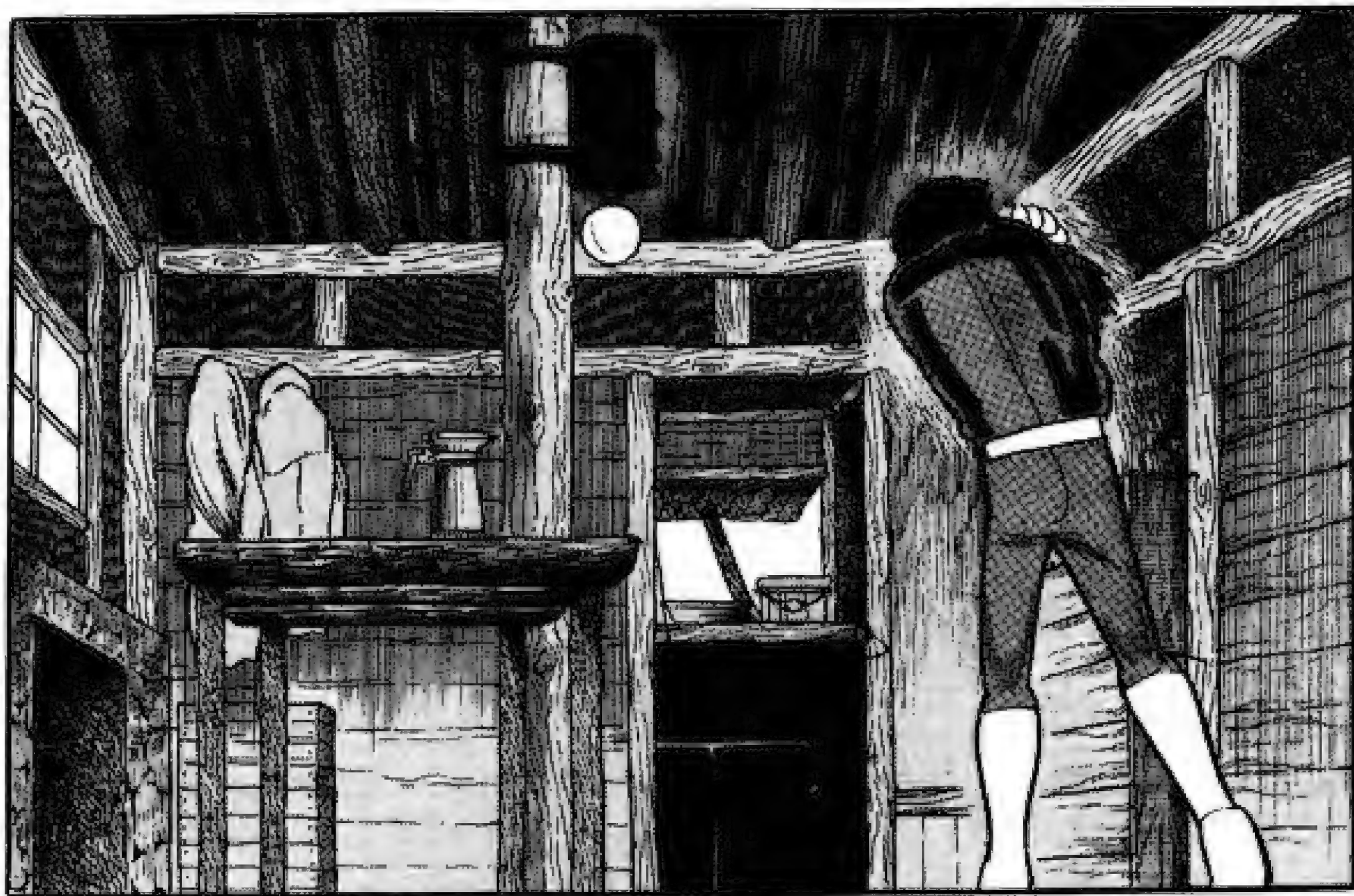
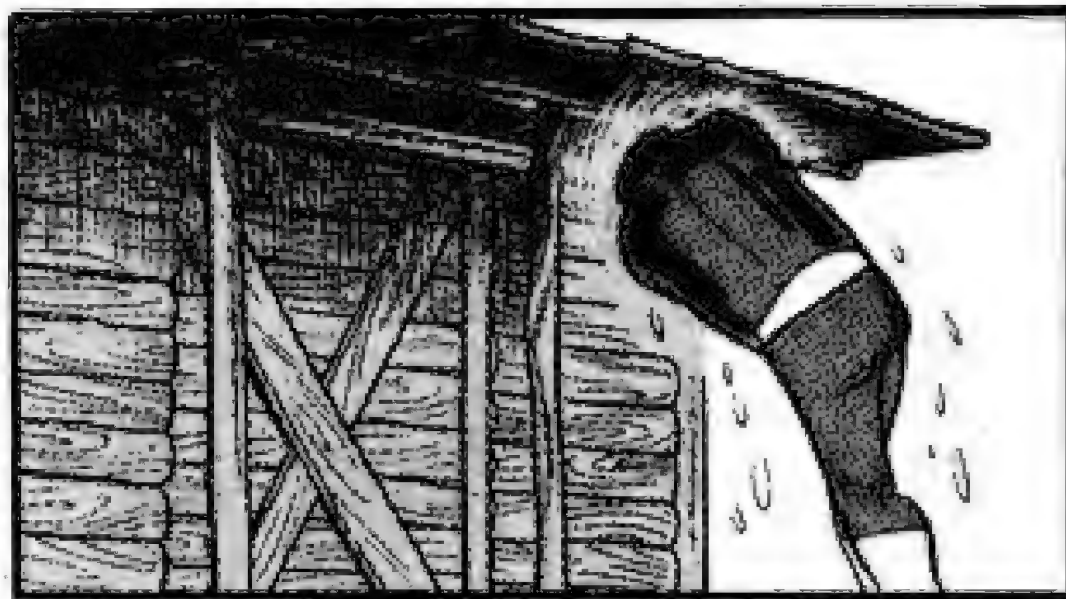
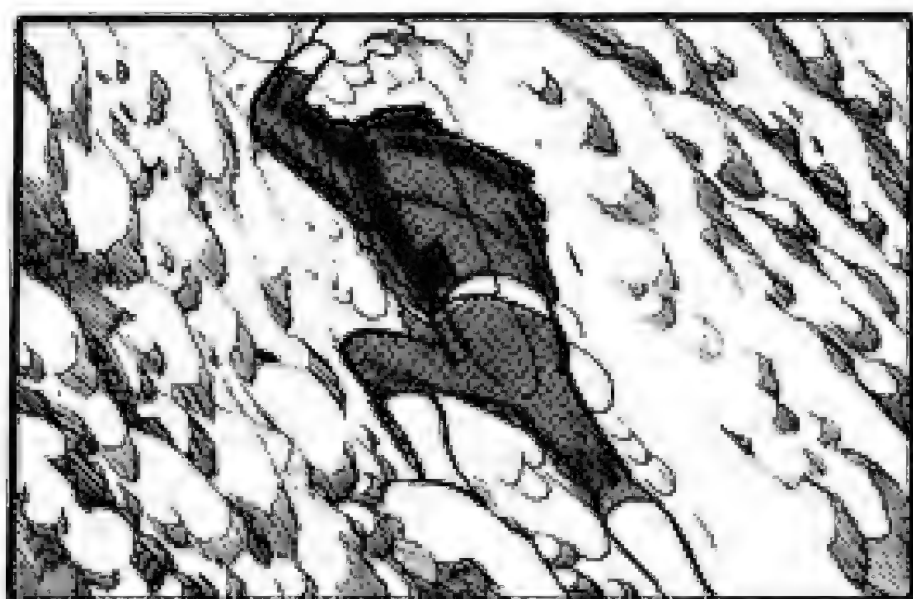


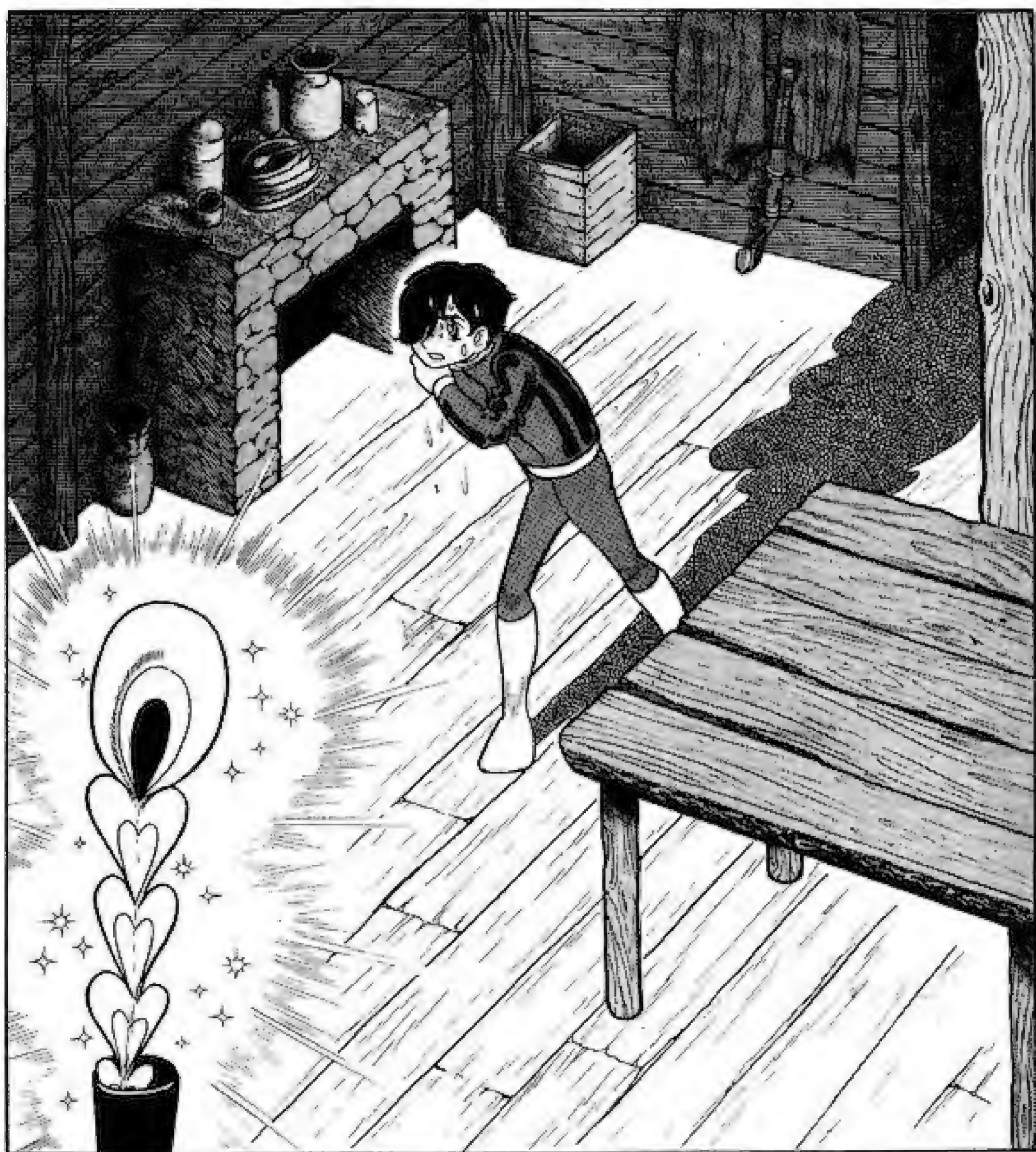




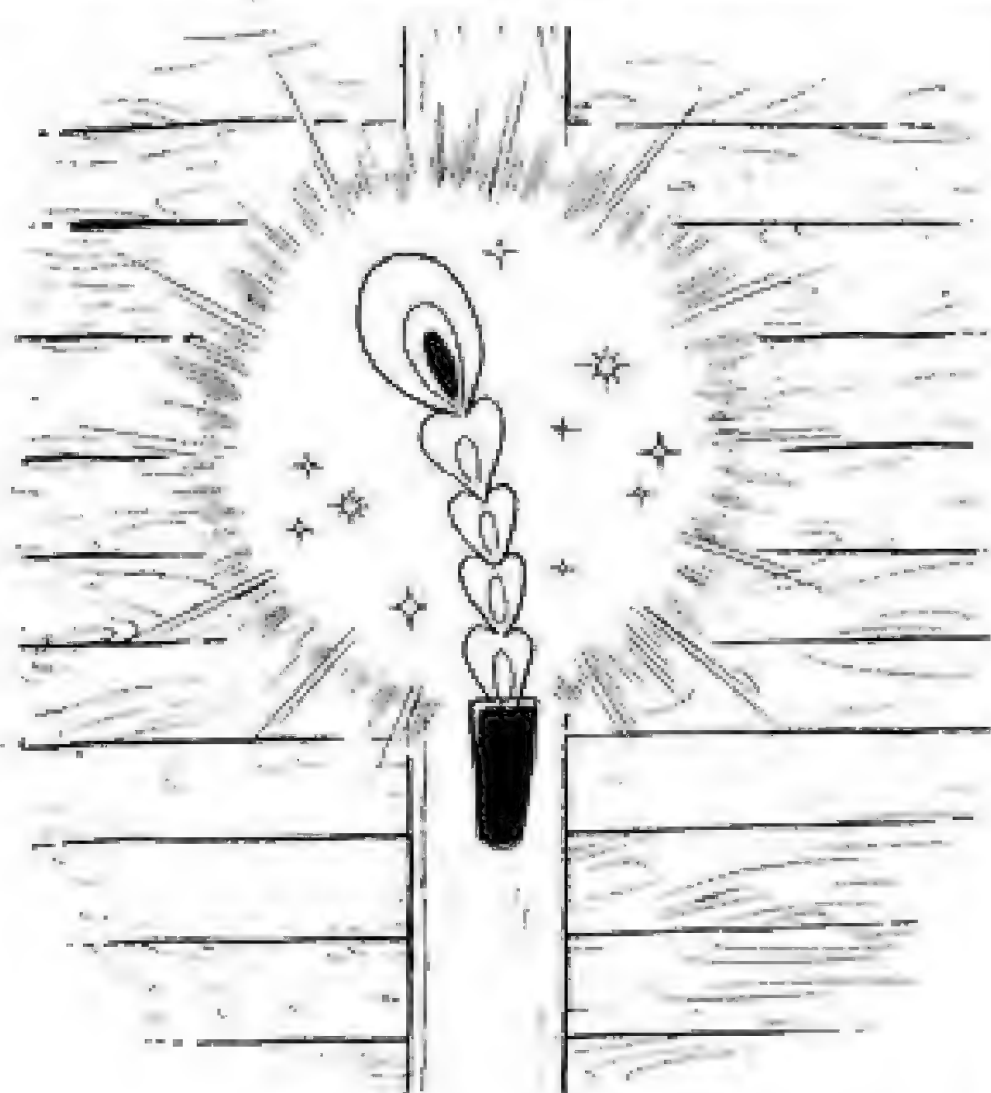
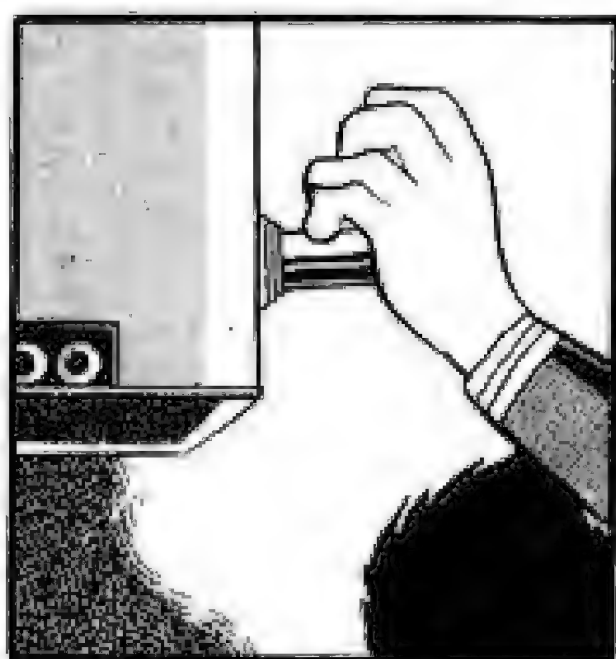
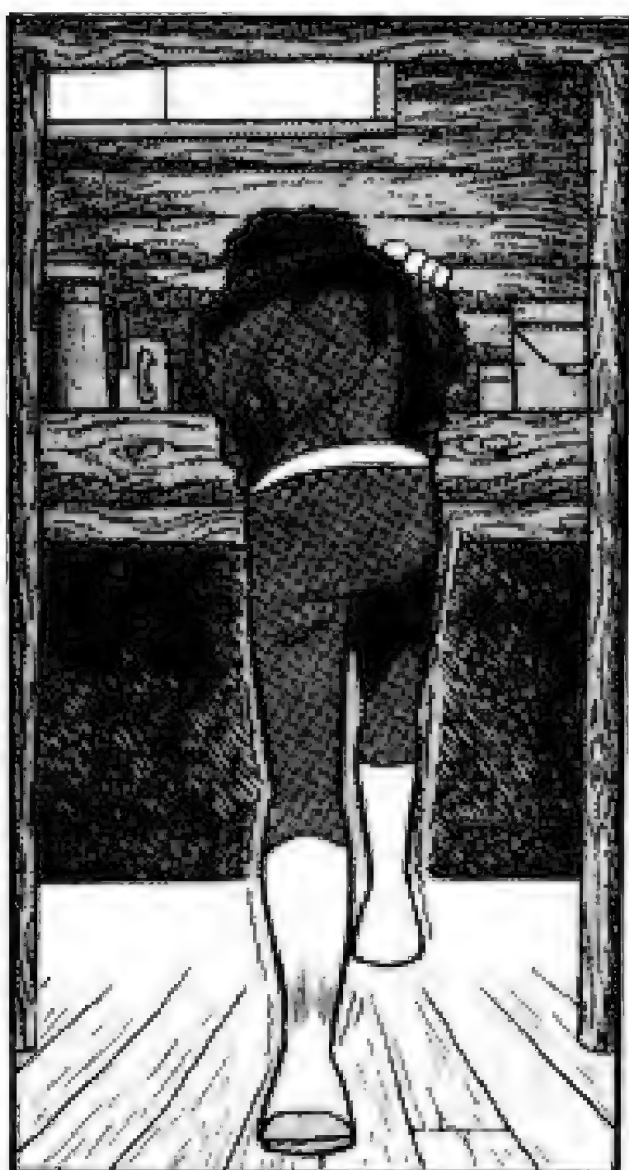


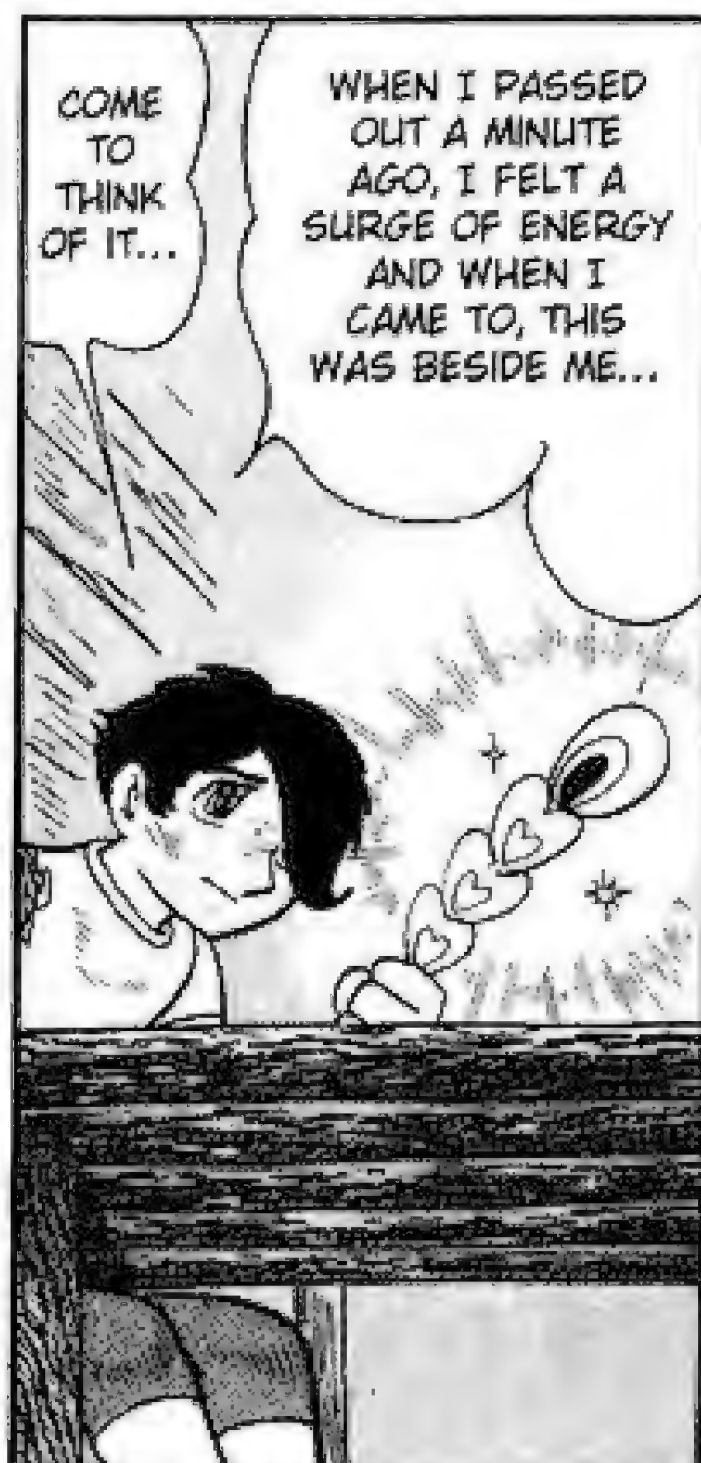


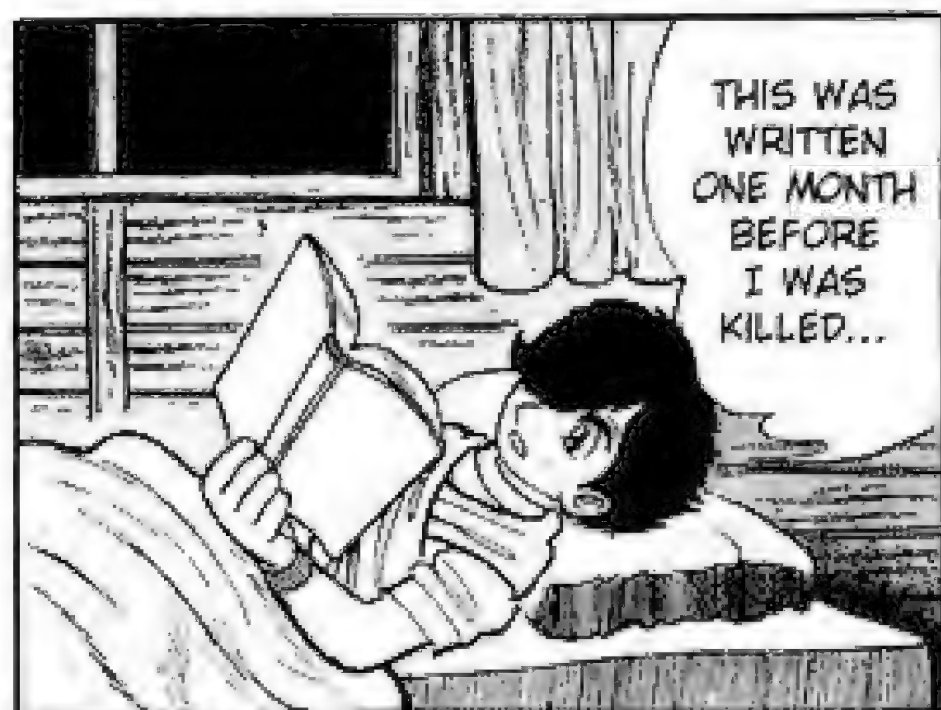
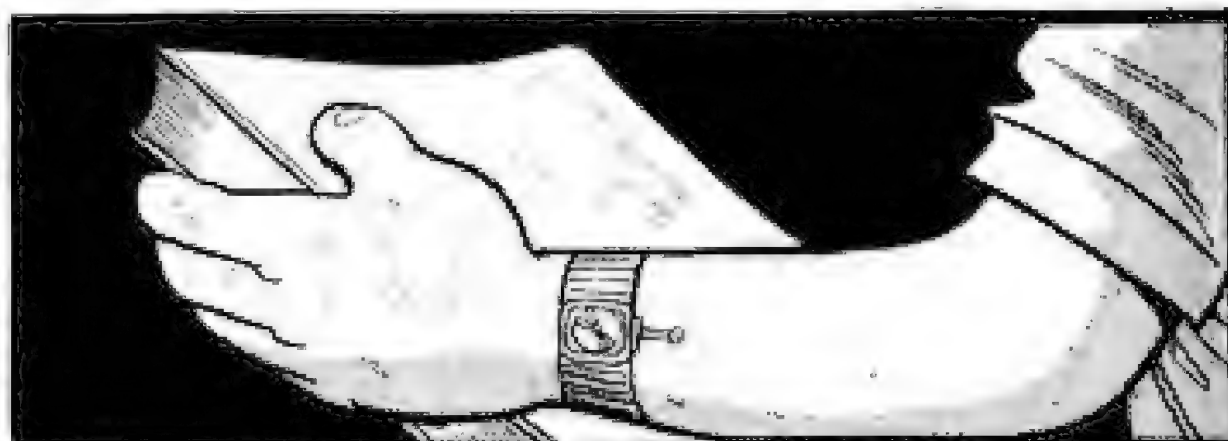
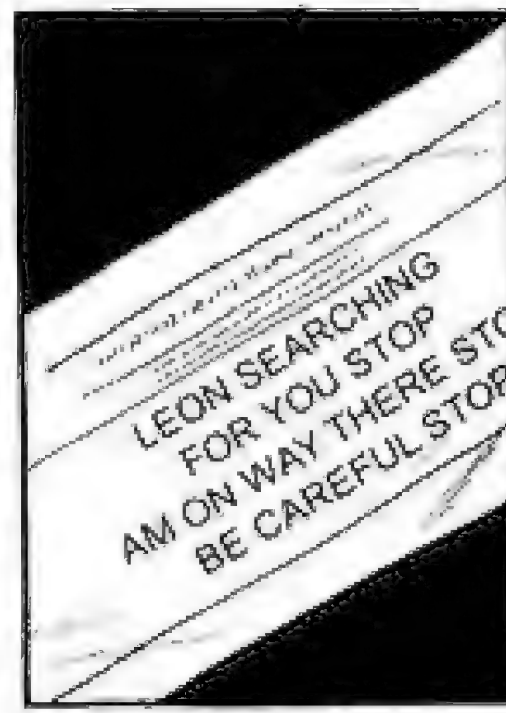












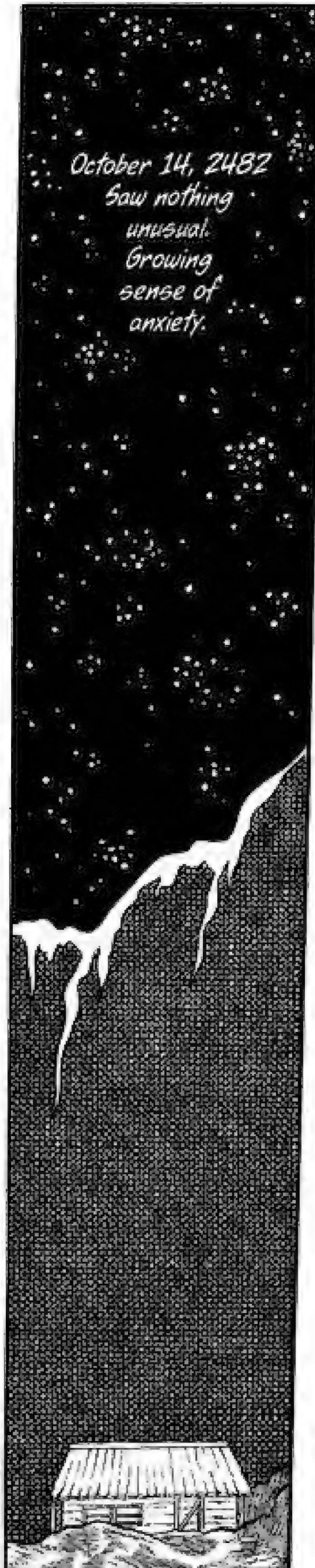
October 13, 2482

Still no sign.
I am beginning
to doubt its
actual existence.



October 14, 2482

Saw nothing
unusual.
Growing
sense of
anxiety.



October 15, 2482

Found
several
tracks that
are clearly
those of
the phoenix.

My faith
in its
existence
has been
restored
and
tomorrow
I will
search
again in
earnest.



October 16, 2482

Towada
claims he
saw a
glowing
object
in the
eastern
valley,
but after
literally
combing
the place,
we found
nothing. I'm
getting
impatient...



October 17, 2482
Nothing...



October 18,
2482
Saw
nothing.
Rained
all day.



October 19, 2482
Heavy rain
all day long.
The irritation
I feel is
contributing
to a growing
sense of
neurosis.
The erosion,
as a result
of the rain, is
threatening
the foundation
of my shack.





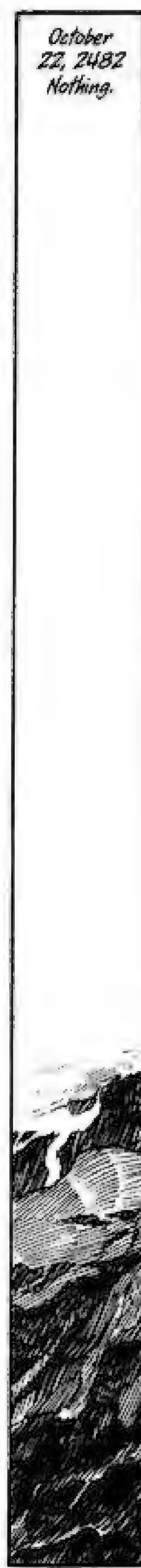
October 20, 2482

*Rain finally
lifted this
afternoon.
The air has
a strange
shimmer to
it from the
heat. Saw a
bright light
around
sunset,
but was
unable to
identify it.*



October 21, 2482

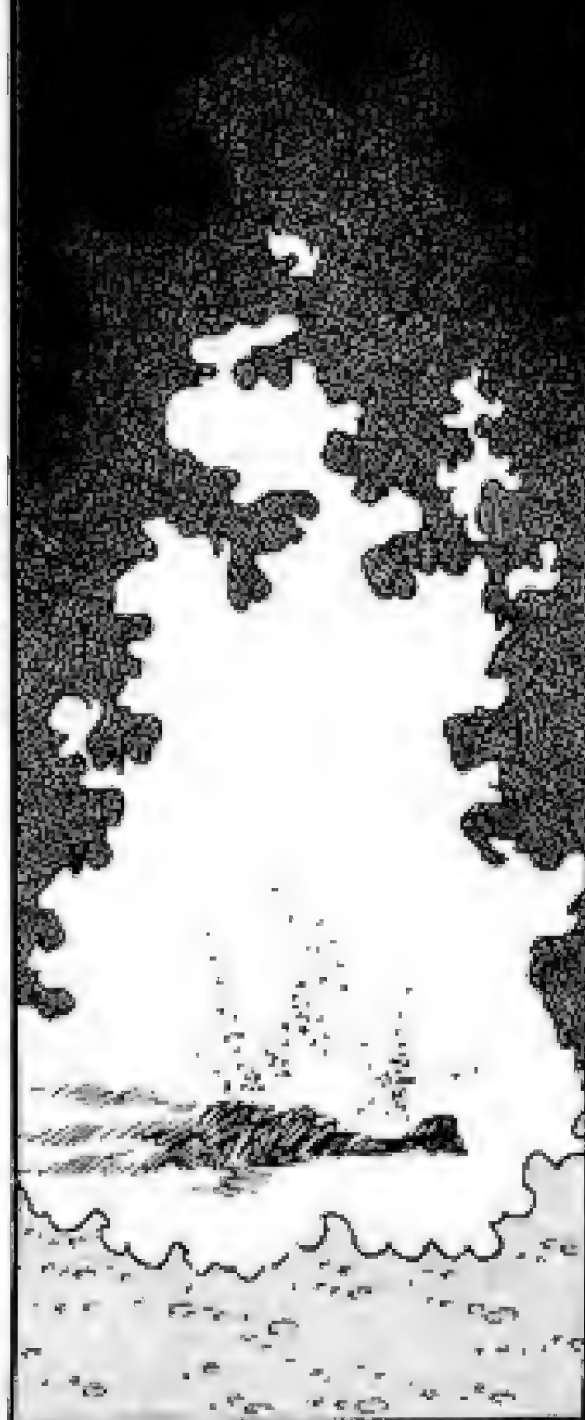
*Began
searching
once more.
The rains
have made
the mountain
trails
virtually
impassable.
Saw
nothing.*



*October
22, 2482
Nothing.*

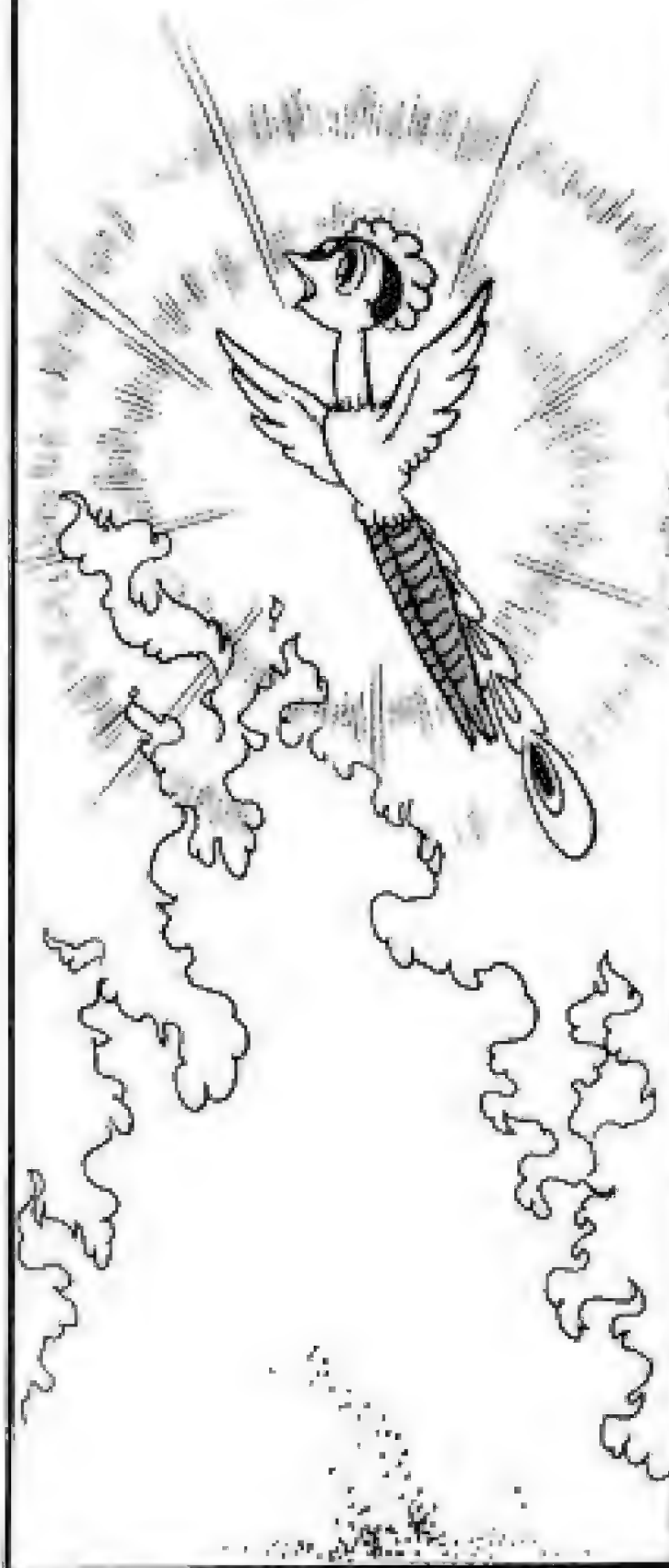
October 23, 2482

Sighted the phoenix at the foot of the north ridge at 10:30 a.m., and after pursuing her for 2 hours, finally shot her. Her body began to burn and continued to do so into the night so that I was unable to carry her body back to the shack. I ordered Towada to bring me food and a sleeping bag and watched over her until morning.



October 24, 2482

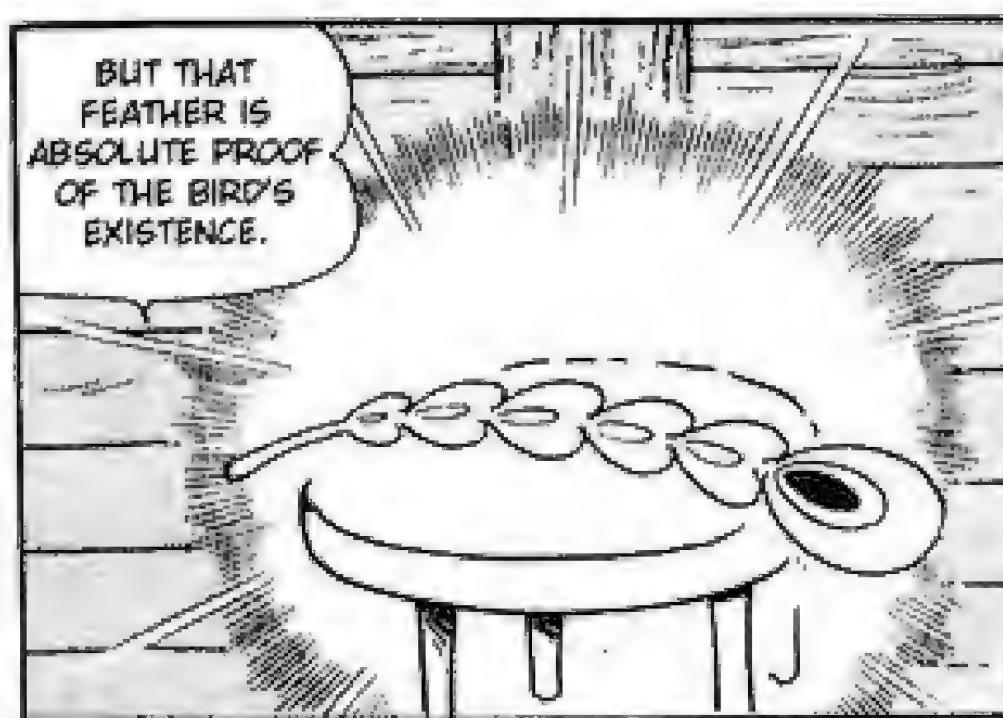
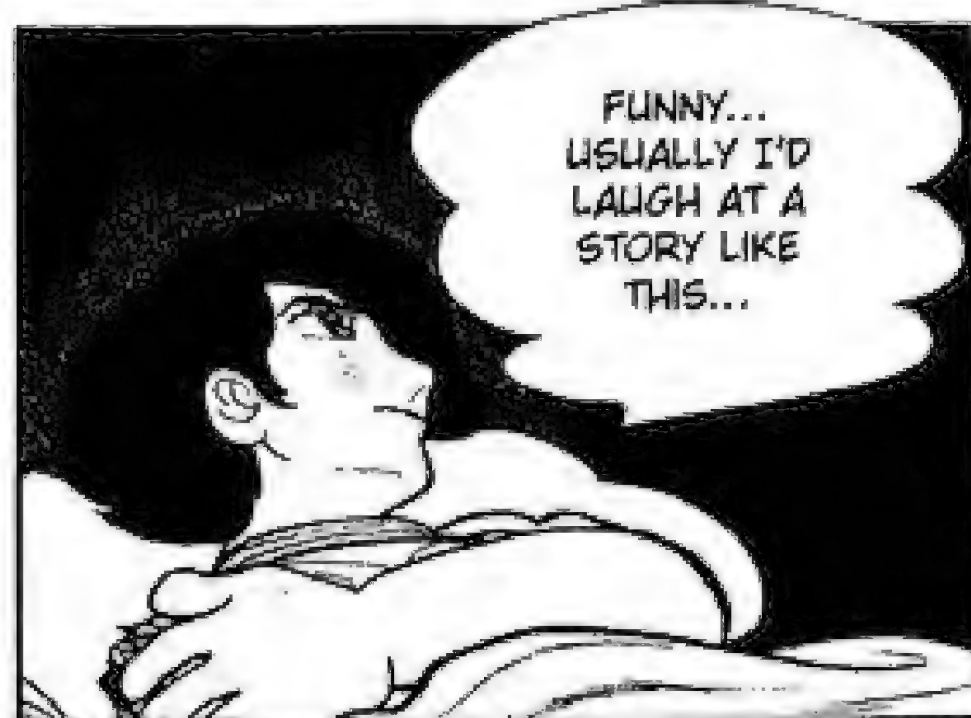
I finally did it! I at last succeeded in obtaining some of the blood of the phoenix! When her body ceased burning, I injected a syringe and removed about 2 cc's of her blood! Around 3 p.m. she began to burn again, fiercely. Then, as I watched, she was reborn from her own ashes and suddenly flew up out of sight. I took one of her feathers home as a souvenir.

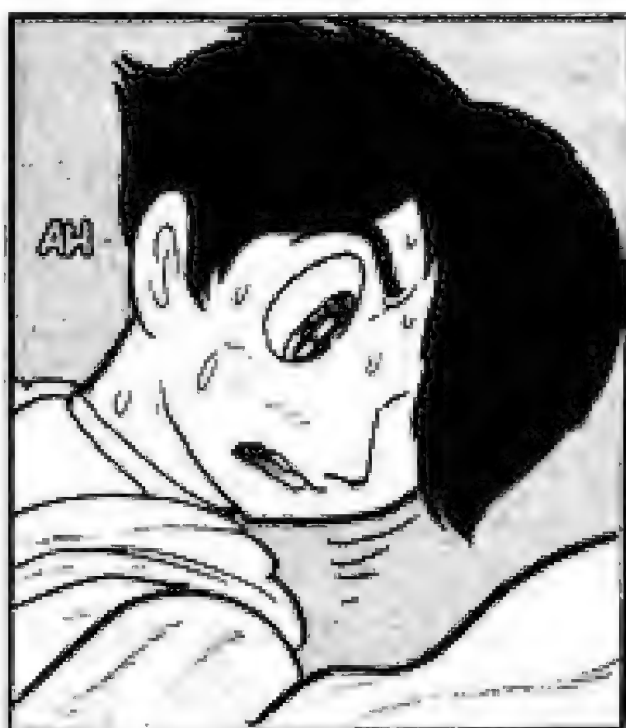


October 25, 2482

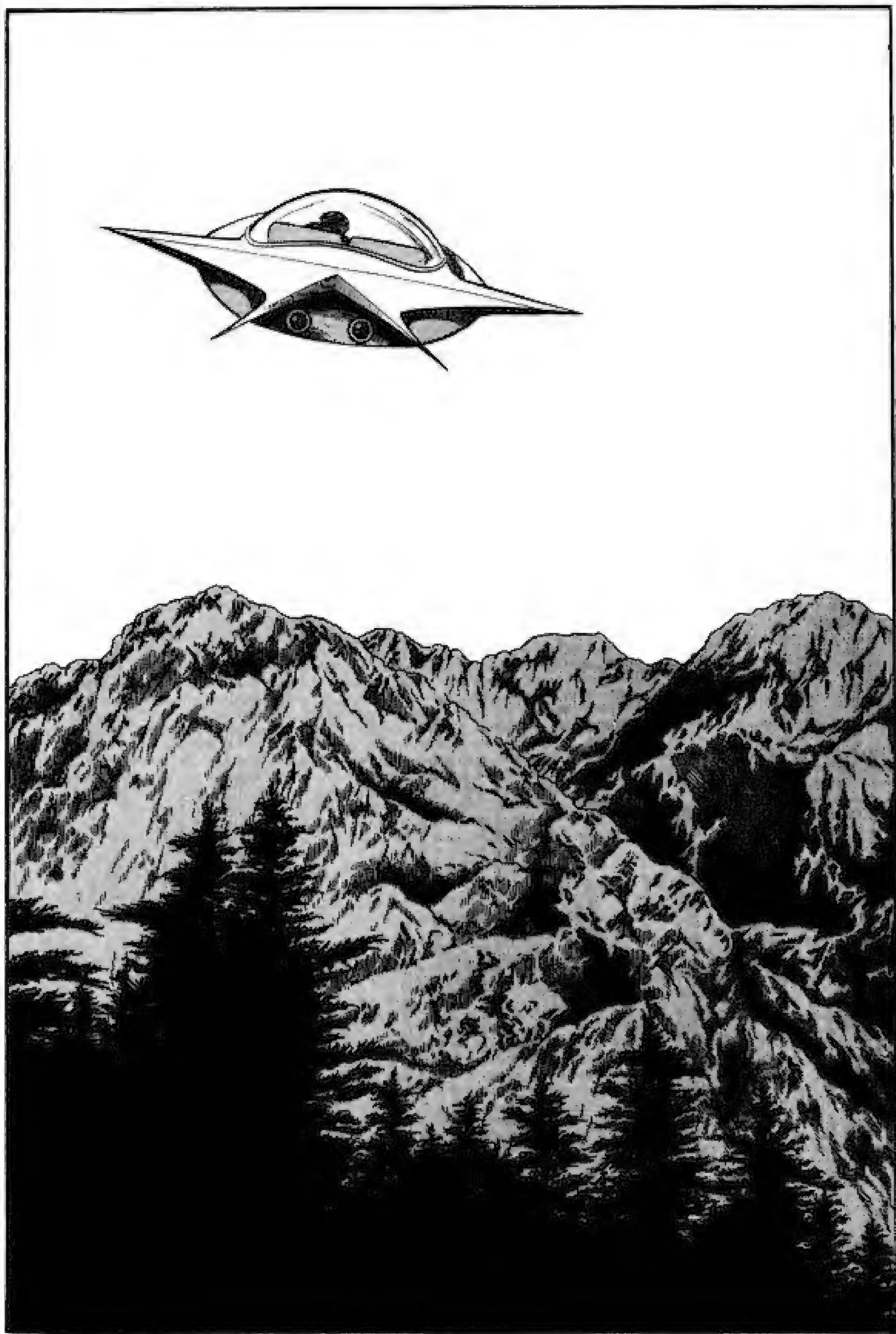
I climbed to the top of the mountain alone find a place store her blood many peop
give life to

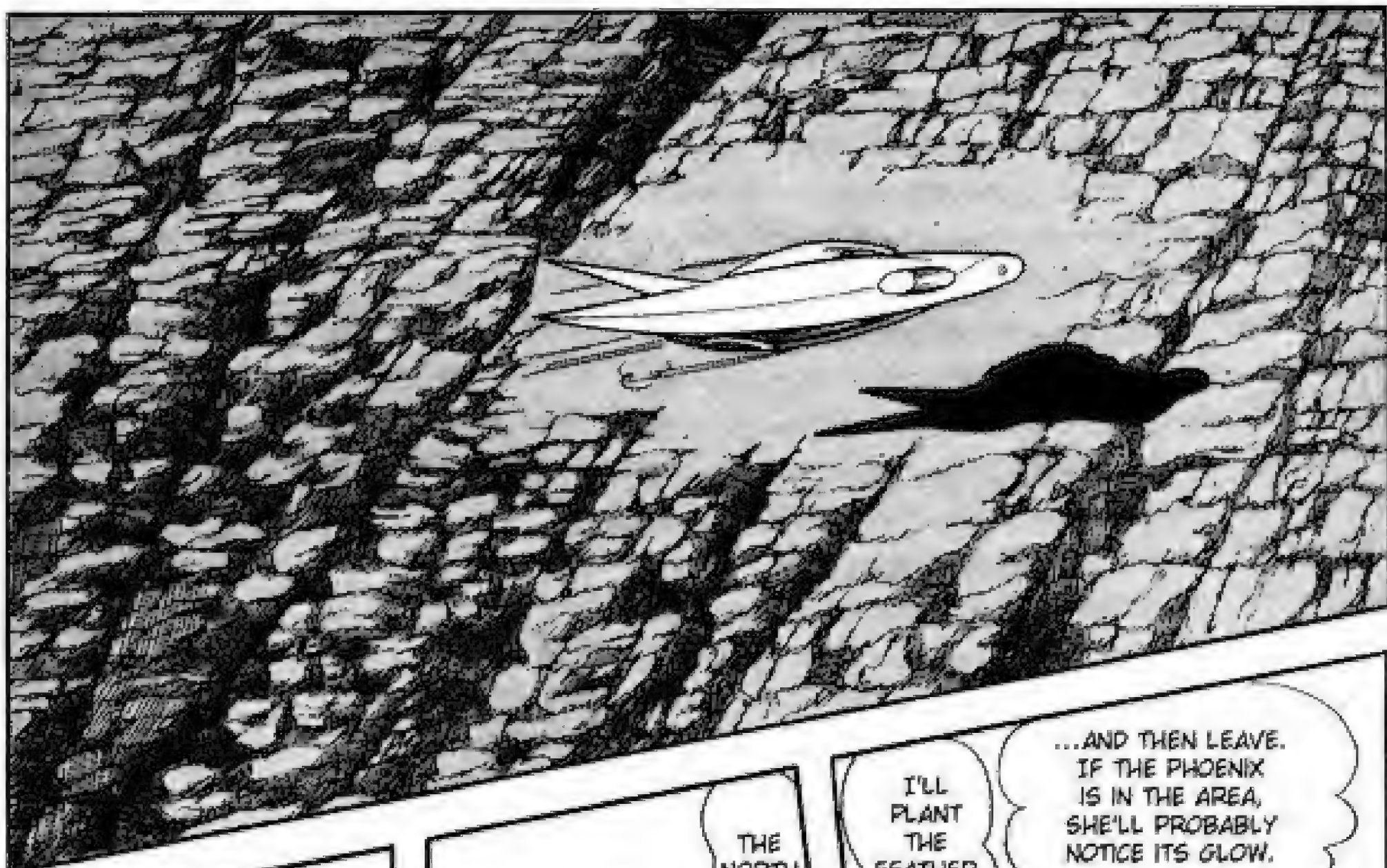












THE
NORTH
RIDGE,
EH?



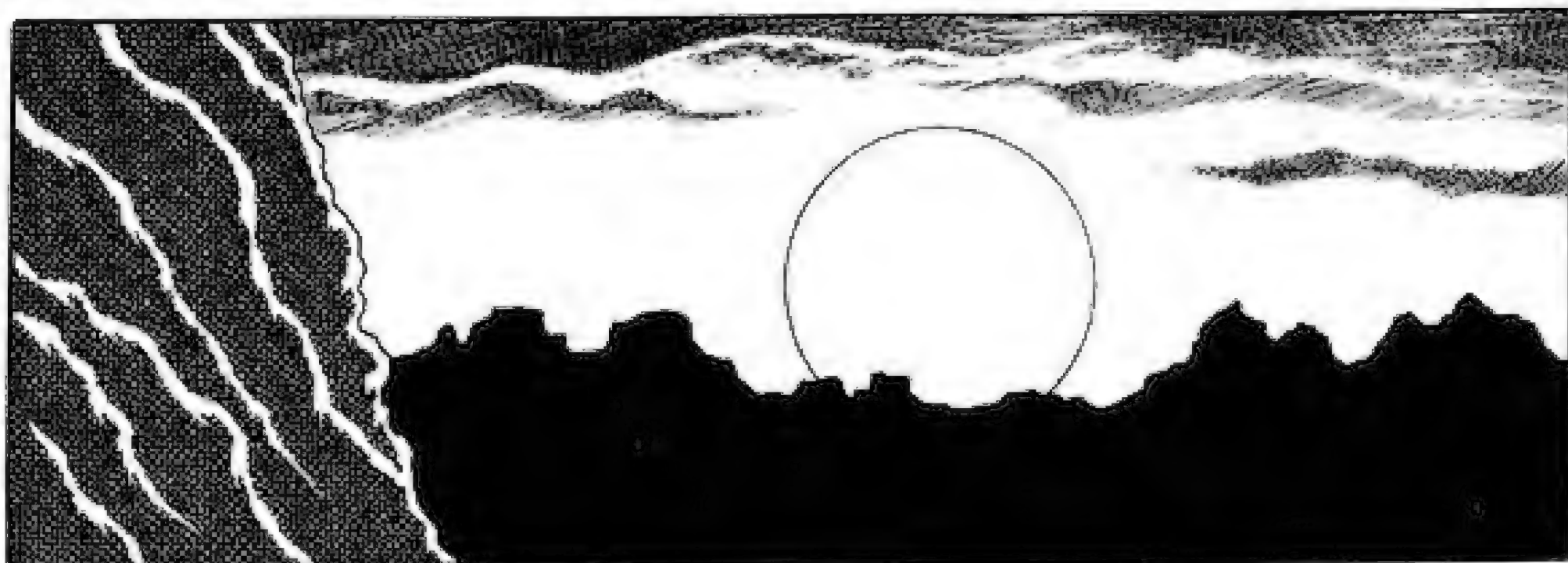
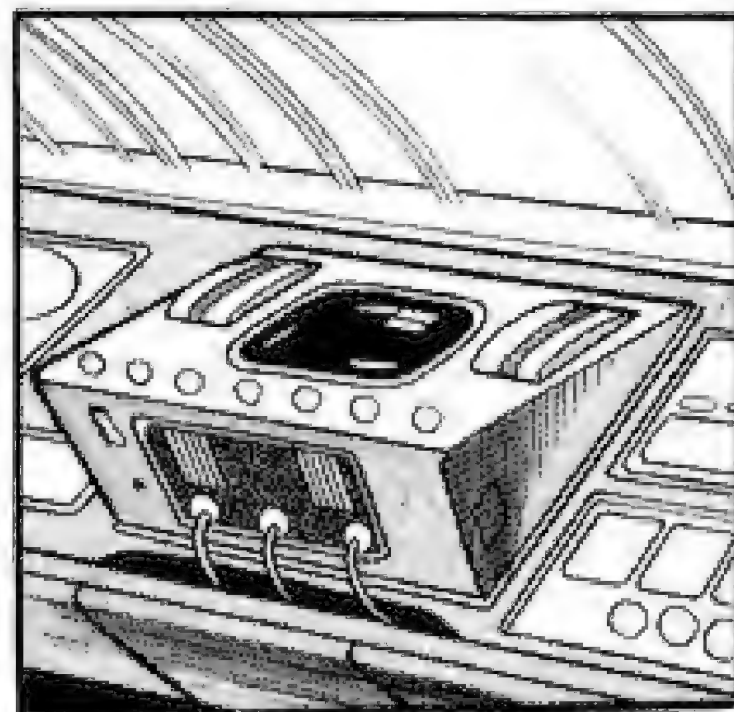
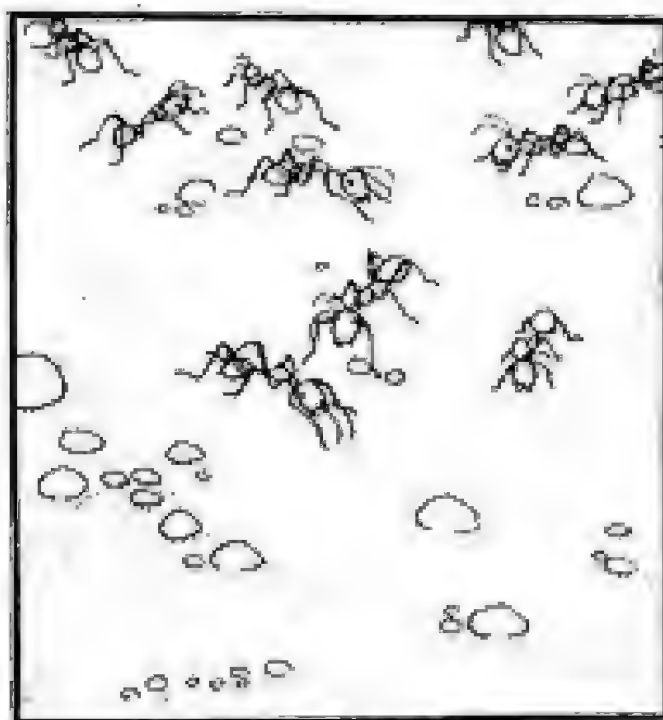
I'LL
PLANT
THE
FEATHER
HERE...

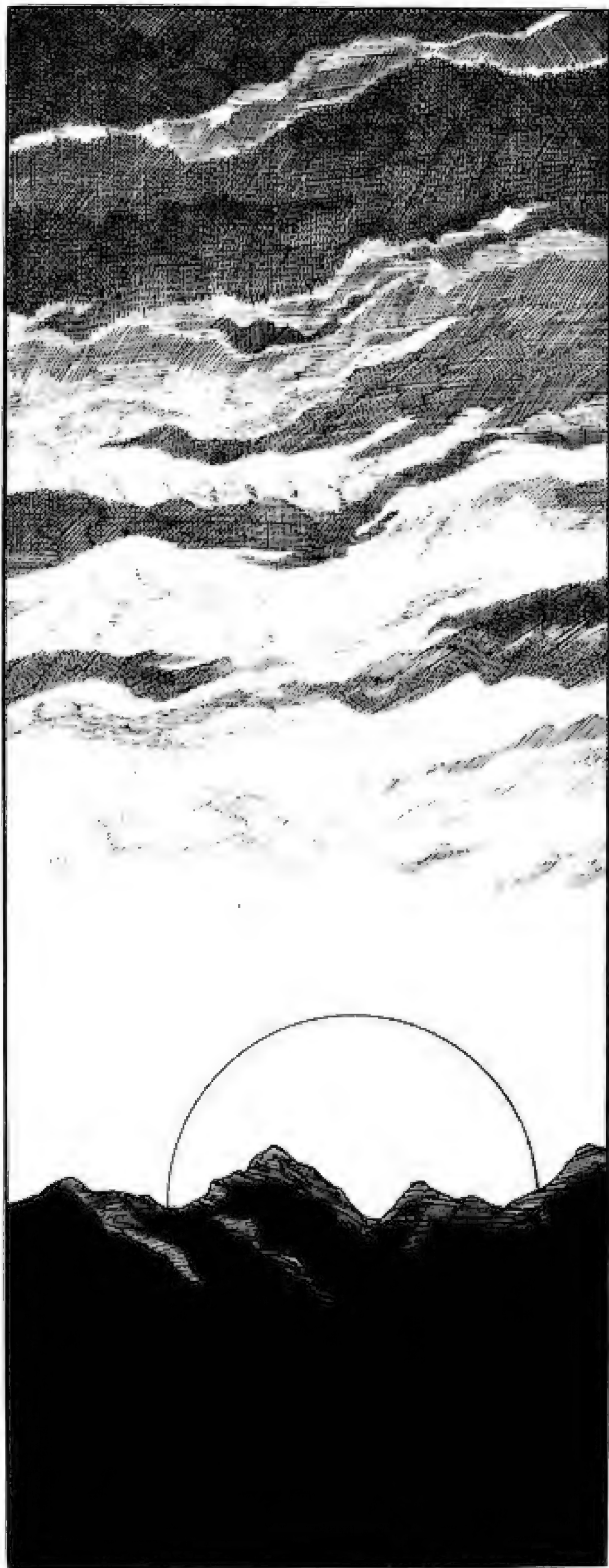
...AND THEN LEAVE.
IF THE PHOENIX
IS IN THE AREA,
SHE'LL PROBABLY
NOTICE ITS GLOW.

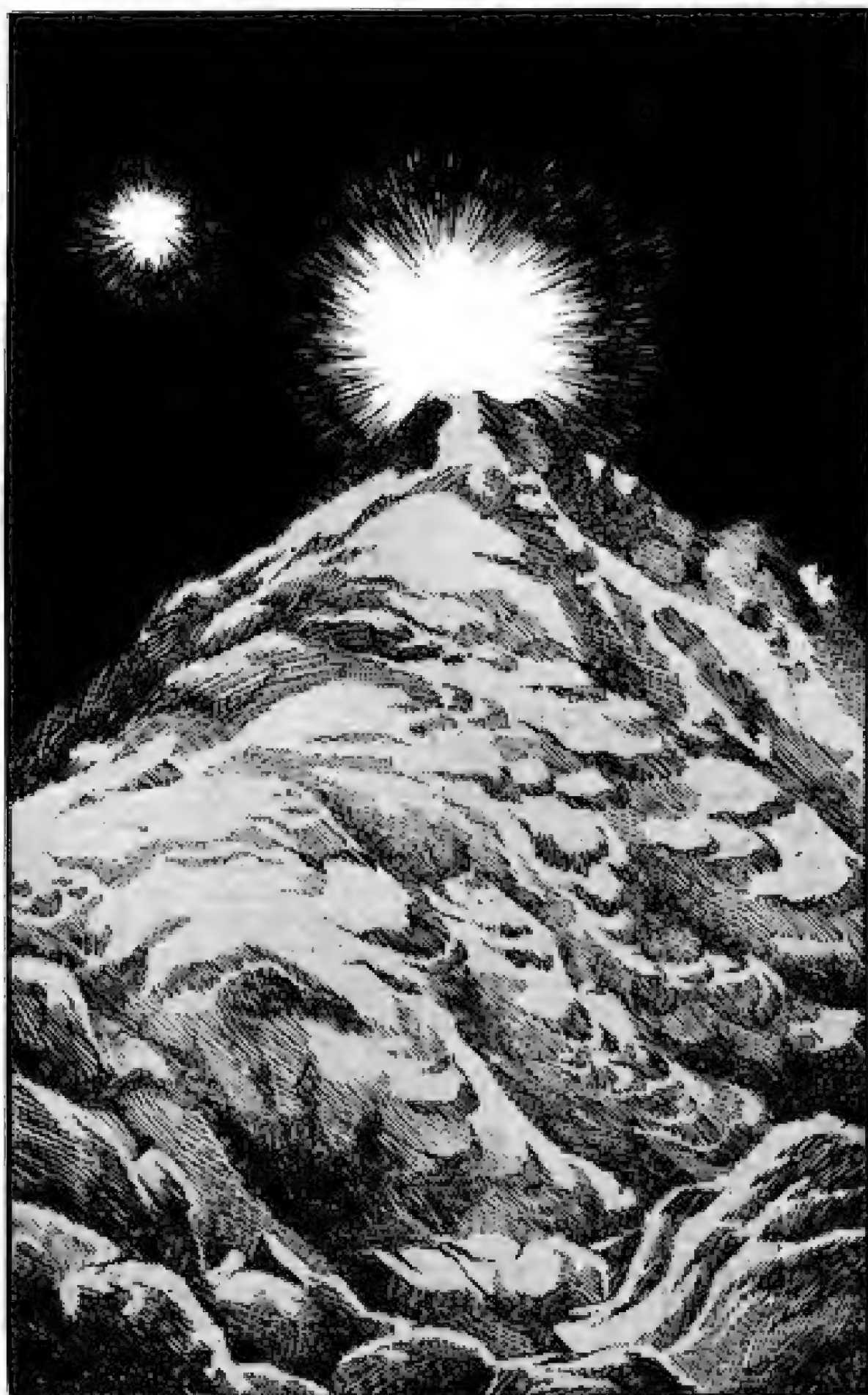
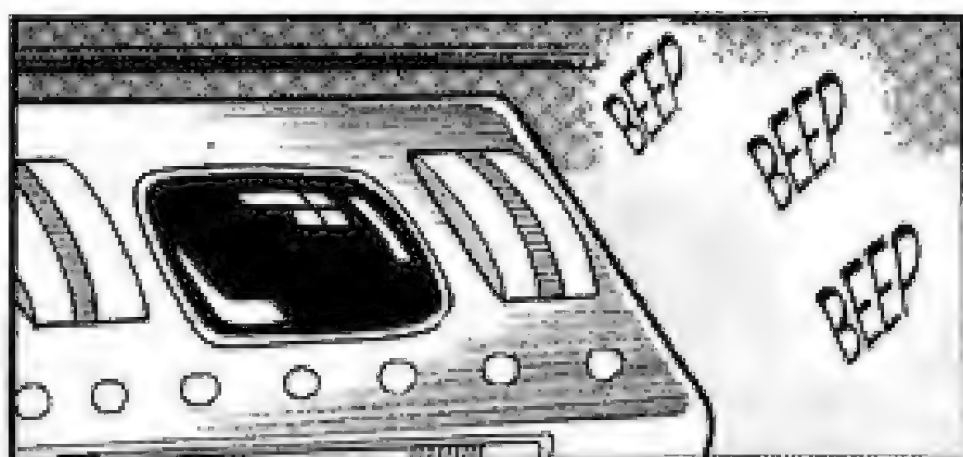


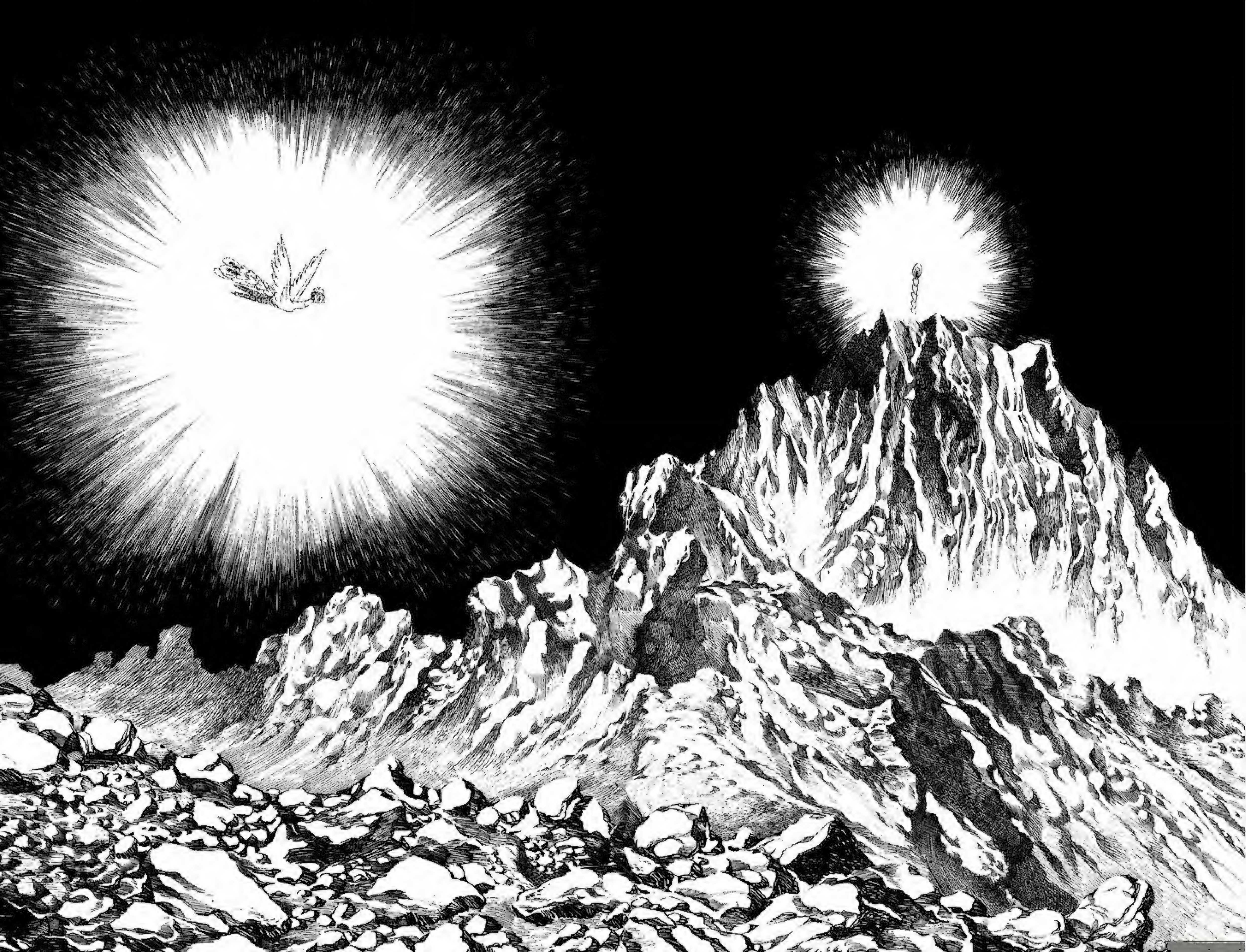
I'LL LAY AN ELECTRON
SHIELD AROUND IT. THEN
IF THE PHOENIX IS
APPROACHING, IT WILL
REGISTER ON THE RADAR
OF MY AIR CAR.
...I'LL FLY HERE
IN A FLASH...

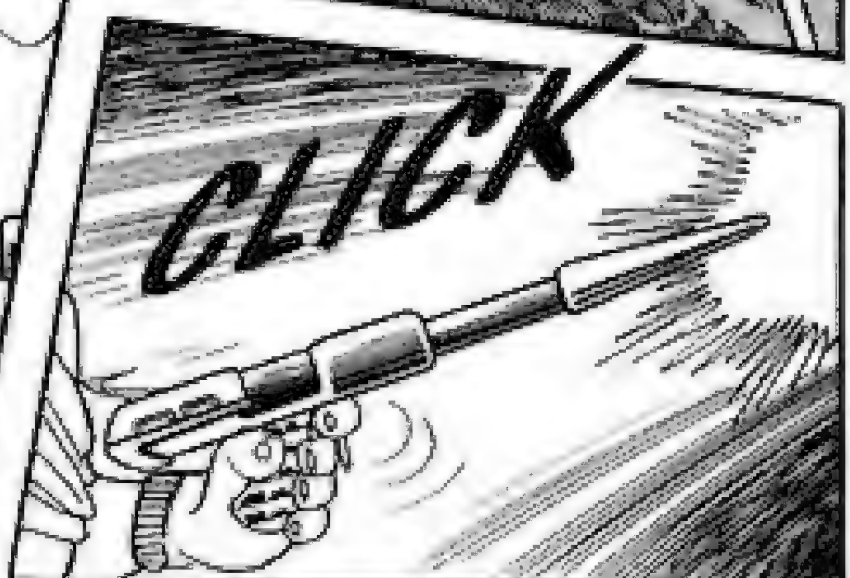
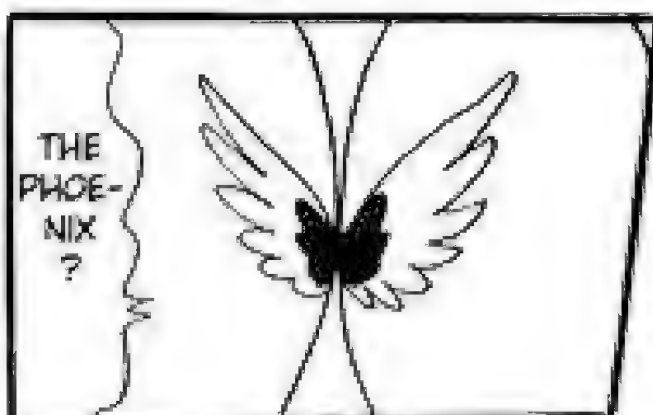
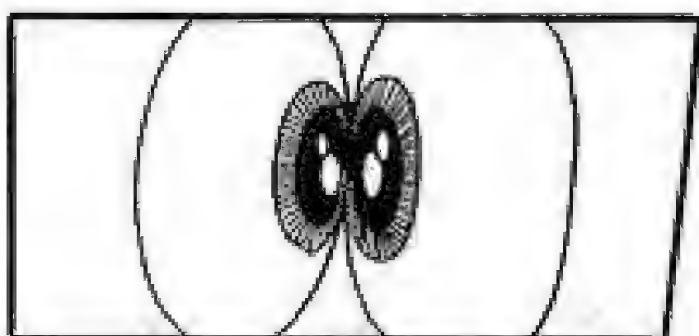


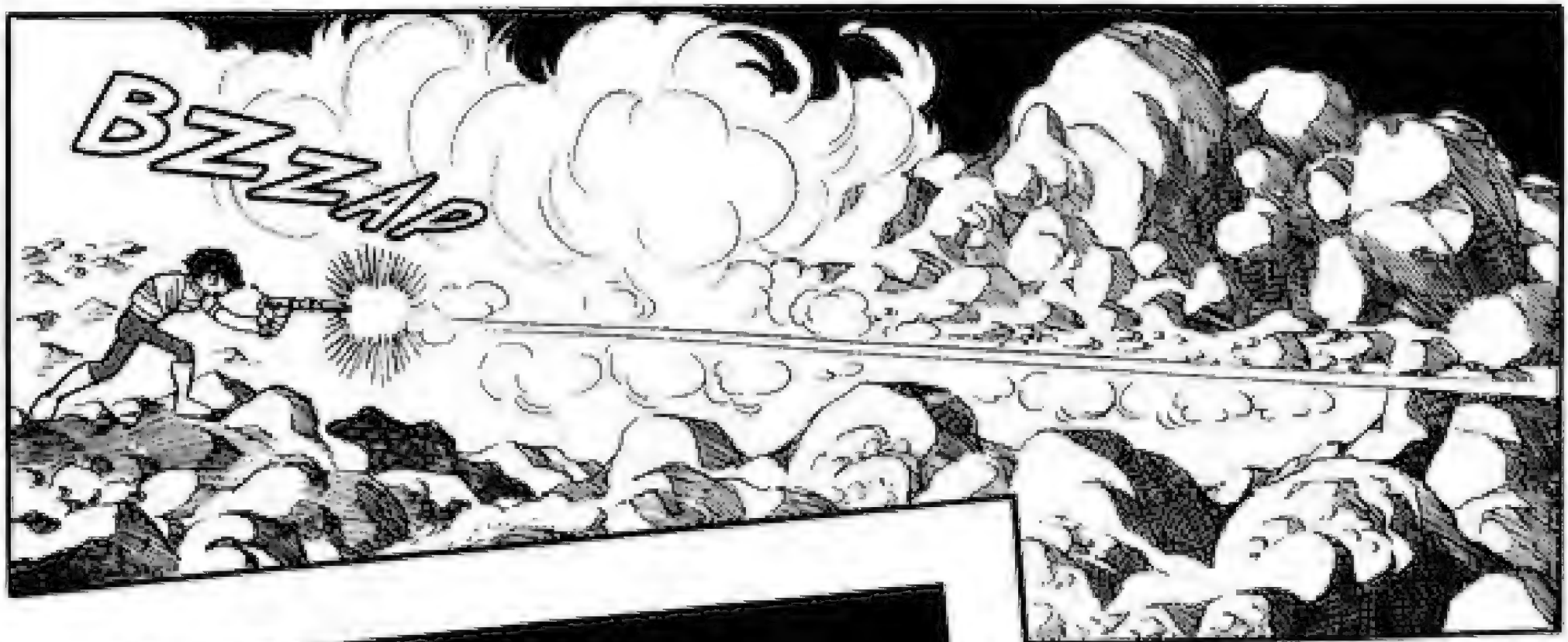












WHAT?
WHAT?
WHAT?

I thought
I explained
everything...

SO
YOU'RE
AN
ALIEN,
EH?

BE-
FORE
?!

When you
shot me
and removed
my blood,
I warned
you... I said
that you must
never drink it.

ARE YOU TRYING
TO SAY THAT I'M
THE ONE WHO TOOK
YOUR BLOOD?

I DON'T REMEMBER
A THING... MY MIND
IS A BLANK.

DO... DO YOU
MEAN THAT
JOURNAL I
FOUND WAS
MINE?!

*You hunted me for a long
time because you knew that
my blood can bestow
immortality on those who
drink it.*

PLEASE!
TELL ME WHAT
HAPPENED!
I SWEAR I
WON'T HURT YOU!
I HAVE NO NEED
OF YOUR BLOOD.
I JUST WANT
TO KNOW WHY
I WAS KILLED!

THAT'S THE
ONLY REASON
I CAME ALL
THE WAY
HERE...

PLEASE,
I BEG
YOU!

You were hunting me with Towada, an Indian who lives on this mountain. You stayed in the same shack you are in now.

SO TOWADA WAS MY PARTNER, EH?!

After shooting me and taking my blood, you planned to return to Japan with both the blood and a feather from my body... But when Towada learned of this, he was seized with fear.

THAT FEATHER IS FROM A GOD!

THE GOD OF WE INDIANS WHO LIVE ON THIS MOUNTAIN!

COME ON, TOWADA... THE BIRD ISN'T A GOD!

BUT IF YOU DRINK HER BLOOD YOU CAN GAIN IMMORTALITY! THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HUNTING HER!!

YOU... MUST... NOT DRINK HER BLOOD!

IT IS FORBIDDEN TO DRINK THE BLOOD OF OUR GOD!

IF YOU DRINK IT, YOU WILL BECOME MY ENEMY...

WELL, ER... I'M NOT GOING TO DRINK THE BLOOD RIGHT NOW... TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH I'M AFRAID TO...

I'LL HIDE IT SOMEWHERE. EVERYONE AND HIS UNCLE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THIS STUFF. SO I'D BETTER PLAY IT SAFE FOR A WHILE.

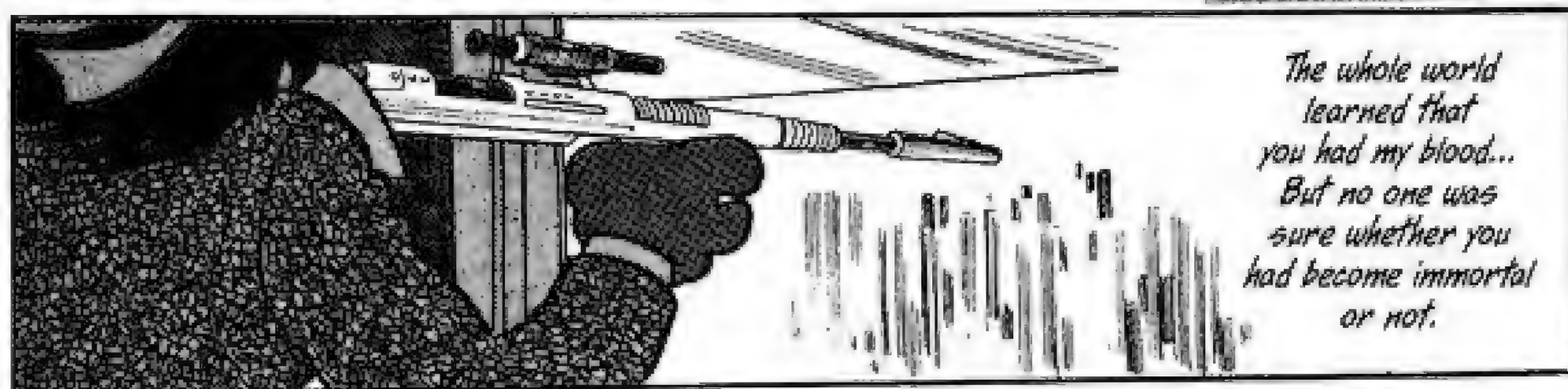


IF YOU
PLAN TO
DRINK THE
BLOOD
YOURSELF
...

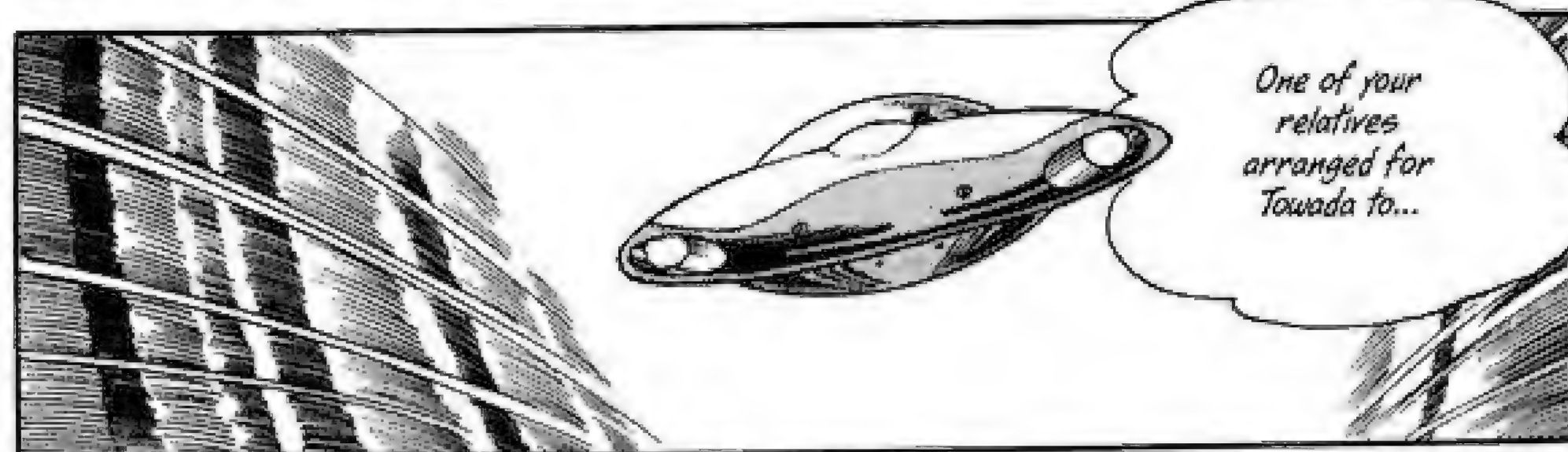
I'LL
KILL YOU
BEFORE YOU
GET THE
CHANCE!

SO THAT'S
HOW IT
WAS, EH?

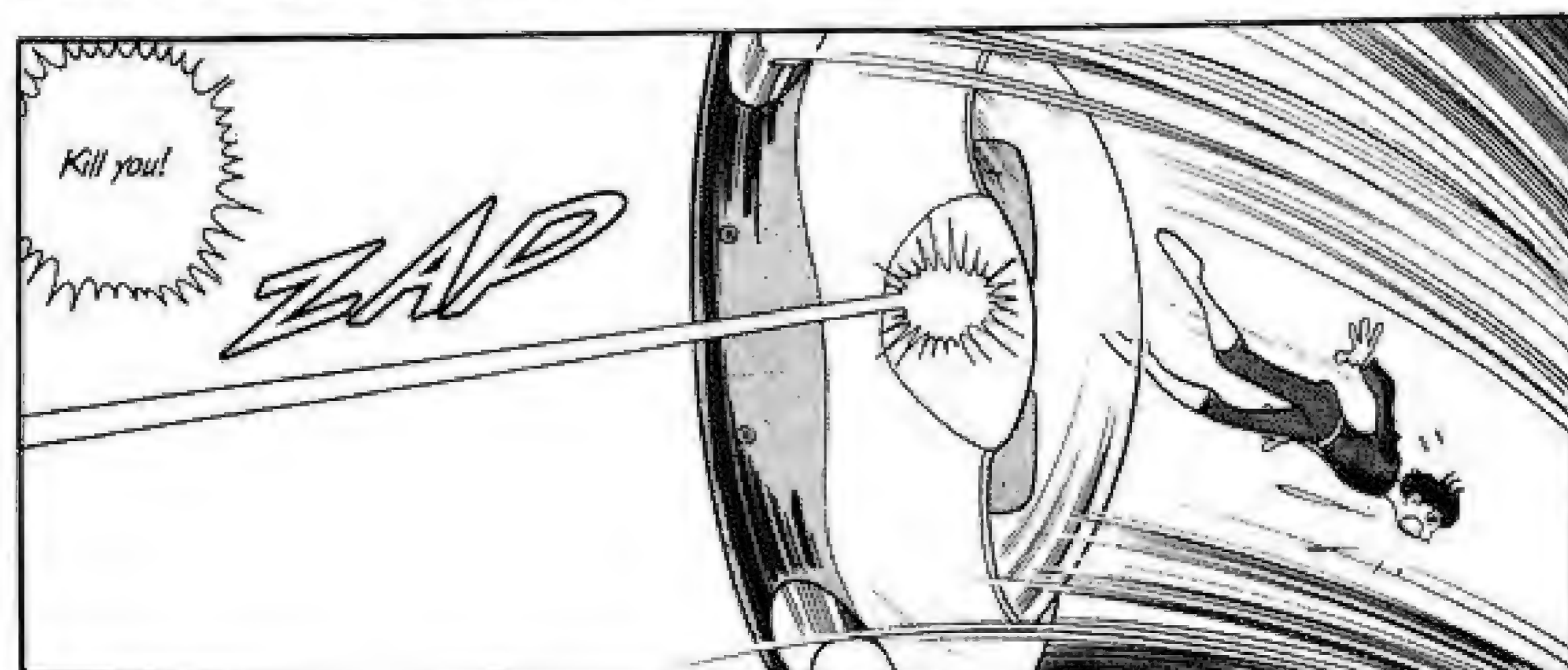
TOWADA
KILLED ME
JUST BECAUSE
OF SOME
SUPERSTITION...



*The whole world
learned that
you had my blood...
But no one was
sure whether you
had become immortal
or not.*



*One of your
relatives
arranged for
Towada to...*



Kill you!

ZAP

A
RELATIVE
ORDERED
MY DEATH?



Had
you drunk
my blood,
you would
not have
died no
matter what
happened.

*Exactly. And when
you died, everyone
realized that you
had not drunk
my blood. They
decided that you
must have hidden
it somewhere. And
they wanted to get
their hands on it.*

SO THAT'S
WHY
EVERYONE
WAS THERE
WHEN I
CAME TO
AT THE
HOSPITAL
...

BUT
I
REALLY
DID
DIE...

"THEY
WANTED
WHAT
I HAD
FOUND..."

THE
VILLAINS
!!

*But
think, Leon.
You were
brought back
to life even
though you didn't
drink my blood.
The science of
mankind can
now restore
life to any
creature!*

*There is
no longer
any need
for my
blood.*



"THAT'S
TRUE...
...I DID
COME
BACK
TO
LIFE..."

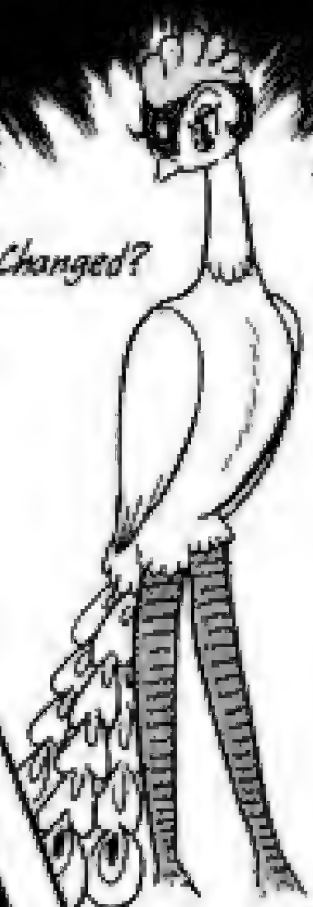
BUT, I'M
DIFFERENT
THAN
BEFORE!

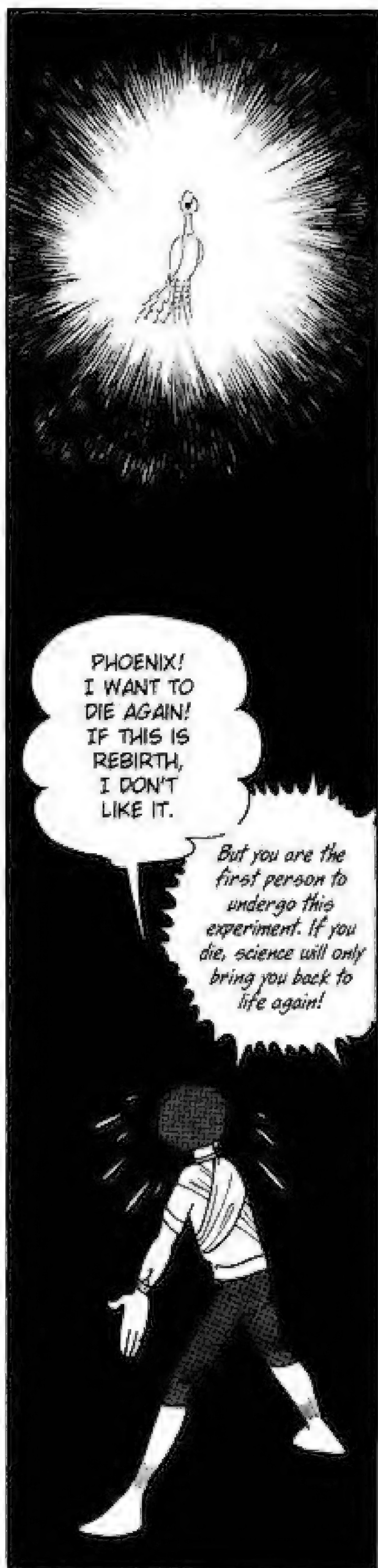
BUT..."

I'VE CHANGED!



Changed?





PHOENIX!
I WANT TO
DIE AGAIN!
IF THIS IS
REBIRTH,
I DON'T
LIKE IT.

*But you are the
first person to
undergo this
experiment. If you
die, science will only
bring you back to
life again!*

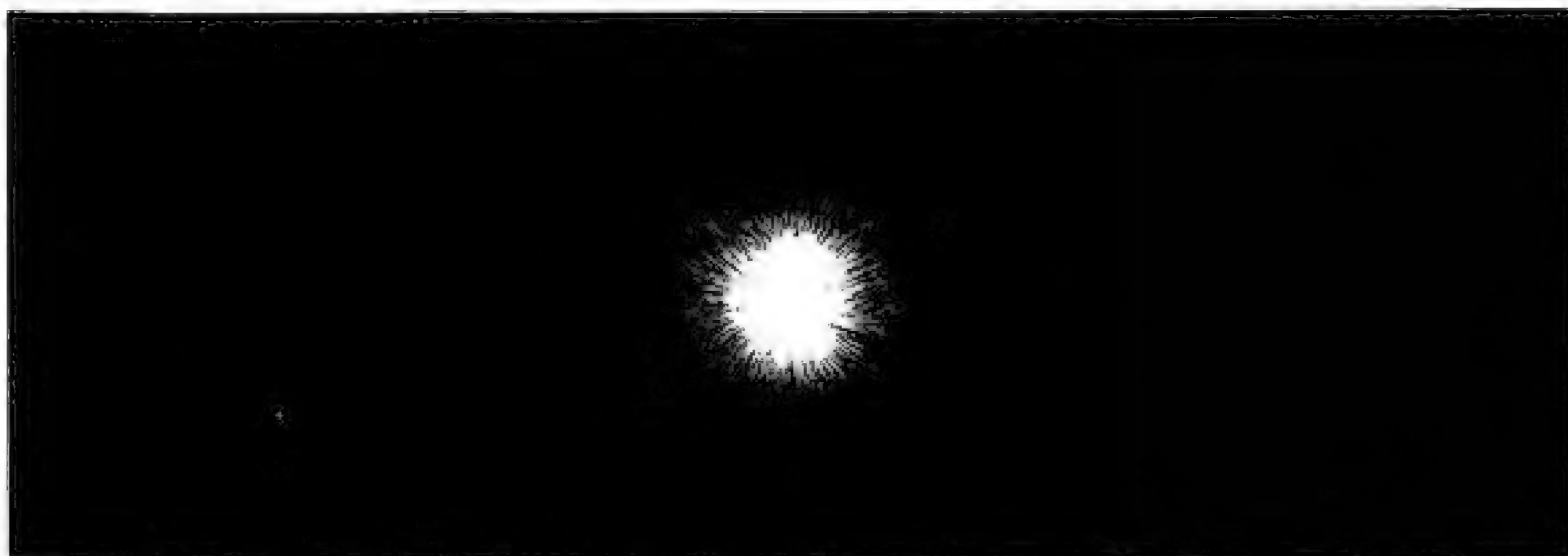


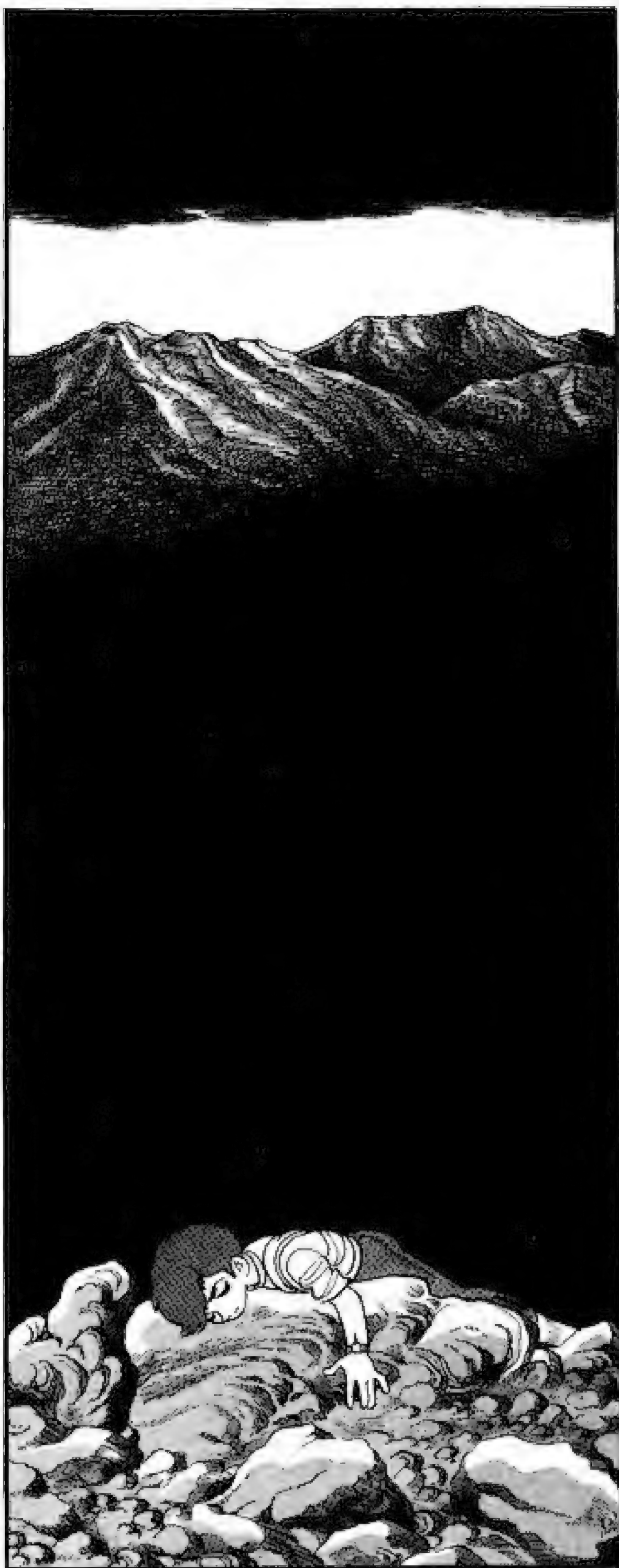
*And if you're
reborn, you'll
probably change
even more
than the last
time.*

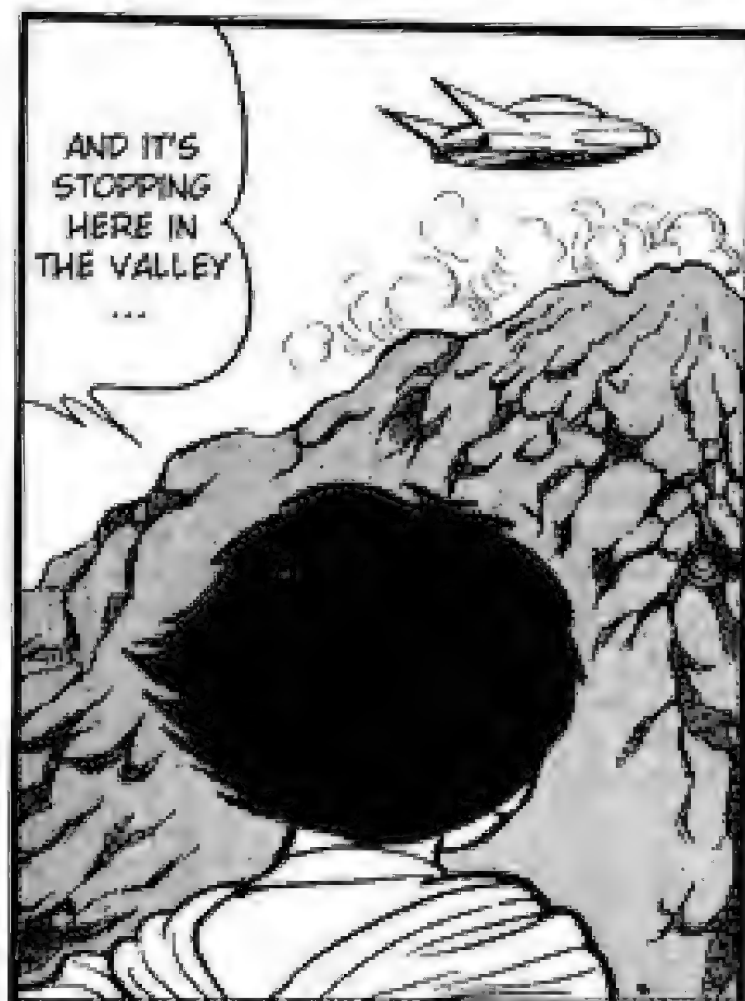
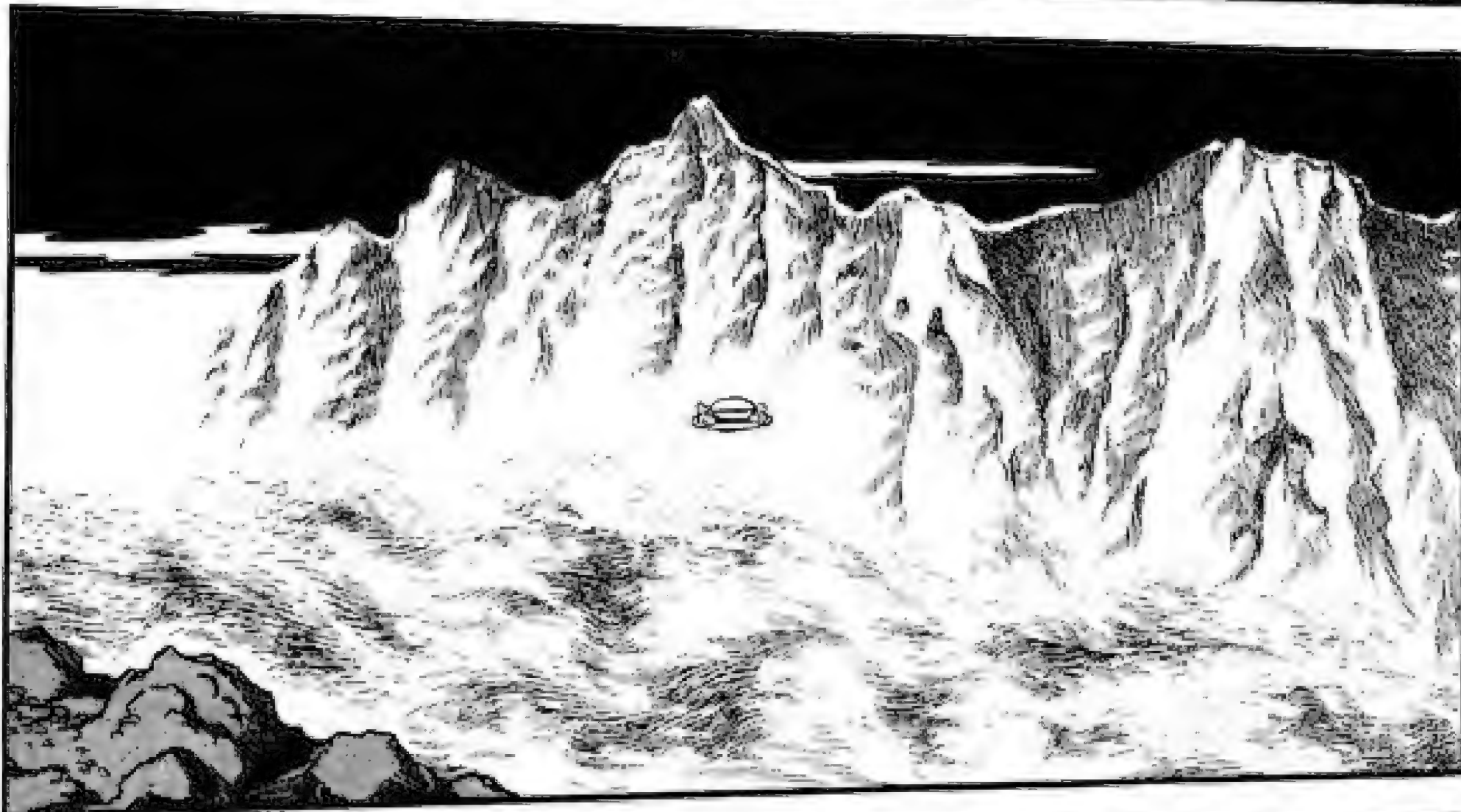
NO!



PHOENIX, WAIT!
THERE'S MORE
I WANT TO
TALK ABOUT!











SAY, WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE GOT THERE?



GAH...



SHALL I GUESS? LET'S SEE... IS IT A PAGE FROM MY DIARY?



AND COULD IT BE THE PAGE THAT HAS THE LOCATION OF WHERE I BURIED THE BLOOD OF THE PHOENIX?

YOU TORE THAT PAGE OUT OF MY DIARY... AND CAME RUNNING HERE RIGHT?



GAH...

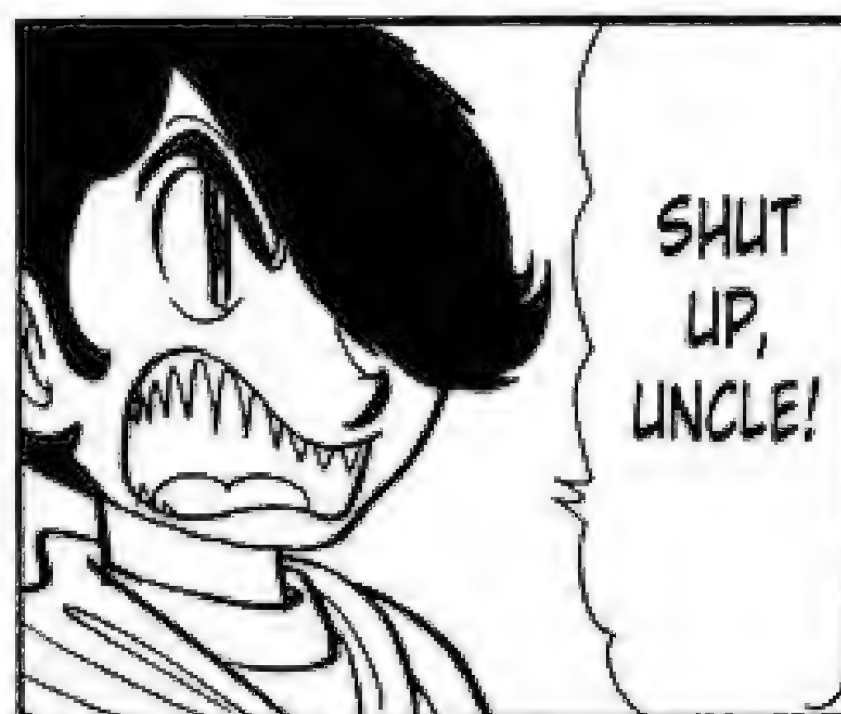
GAH...

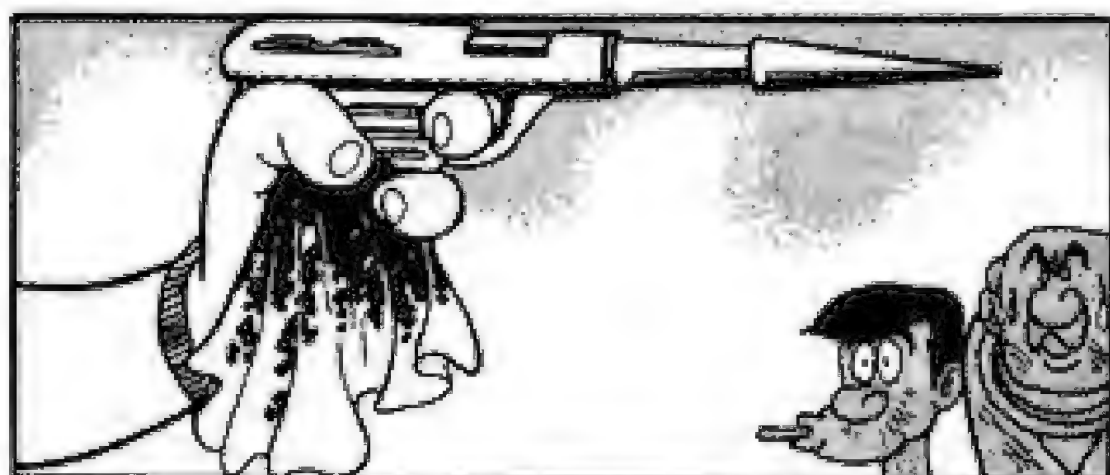
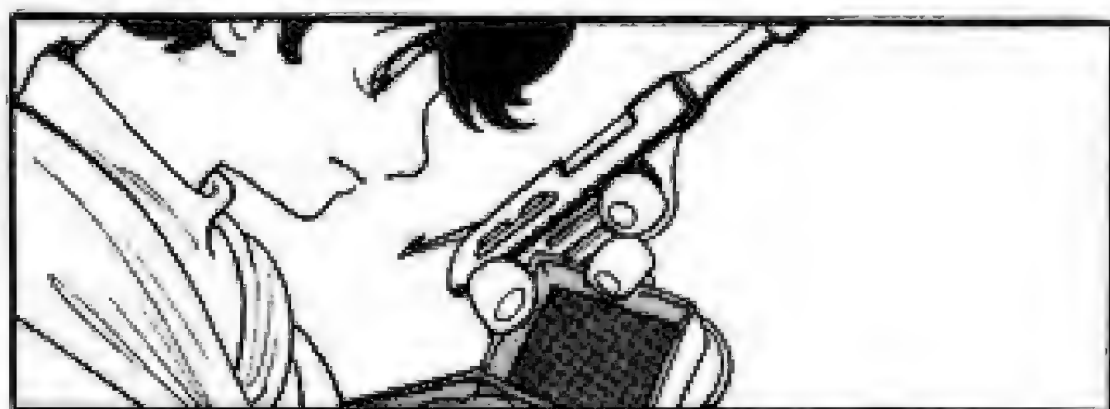
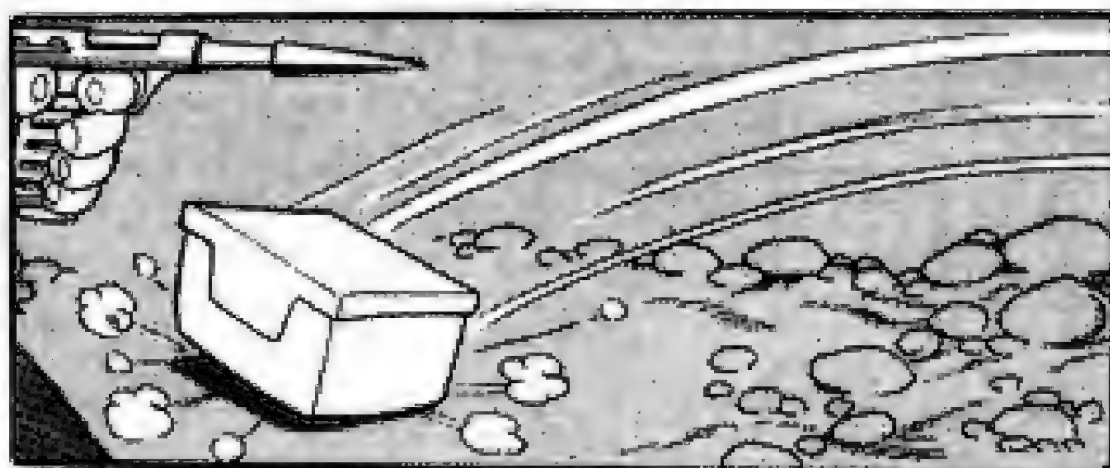
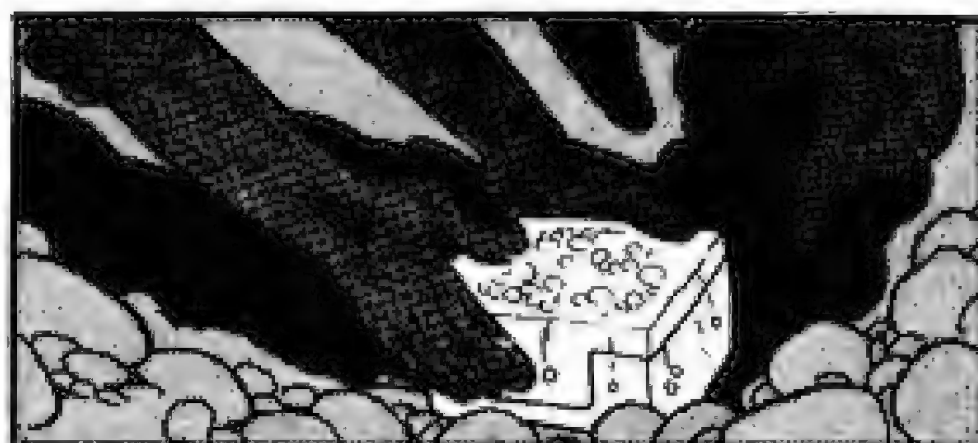


AND YOU'RE THE PEOPLE WHO HIRED TOWADA, THE INDIAN, TO KILL ME SO YOU COULD SEE WHETHER I WAS IMMORTAL OR NOT, RIGHT?

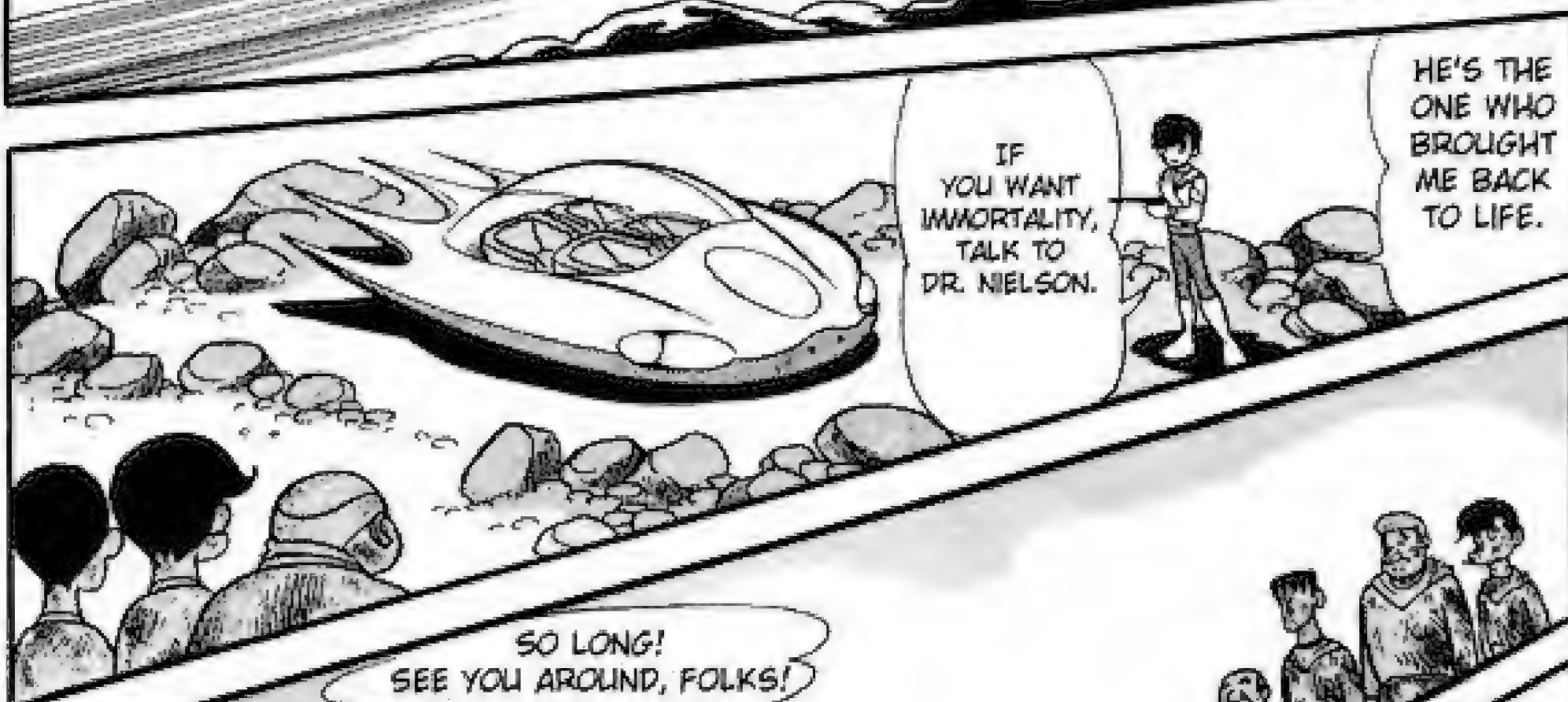
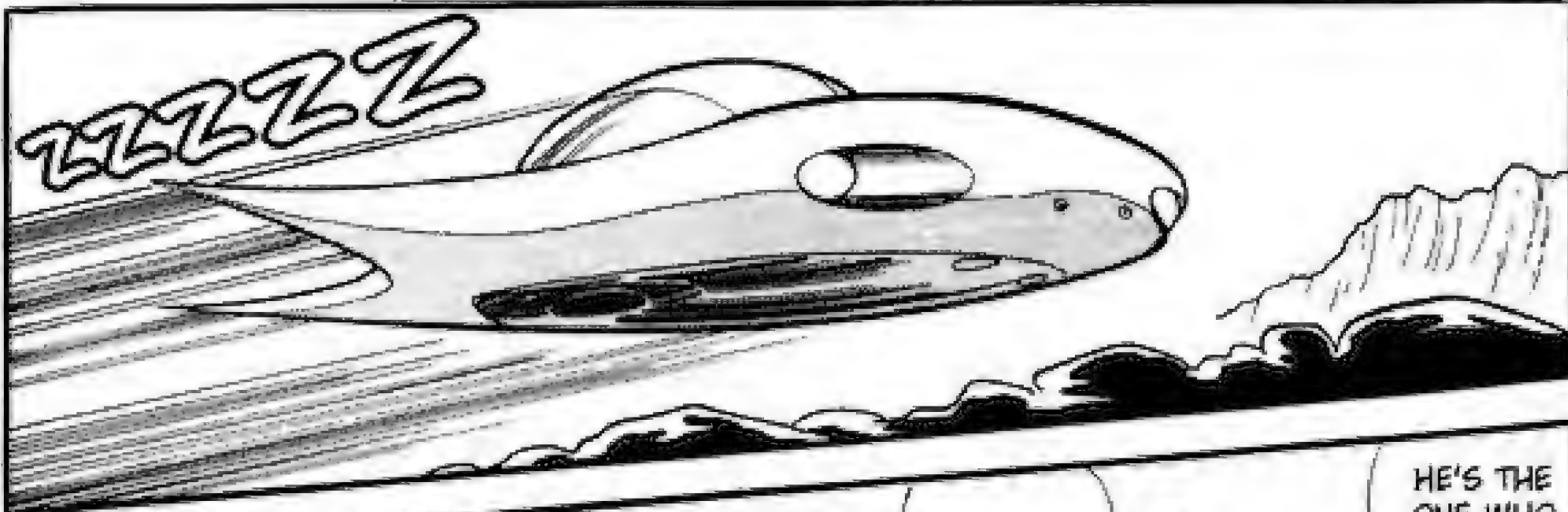


BUT BEFORE YOU CAME HERE, YOU TELEGRAMMED TOWADA AND TOLD HIM TO FINISH ME OFF... BUT NOW, CONTRARY TO YOUR PLANS, HERE I AM... ALIVE... THAT ABOUT SUMS UP THE EVENTS TO DATE, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?









IF
YOU WANT
IMMORTALITY,
TALK TO
DR. NIELSON.

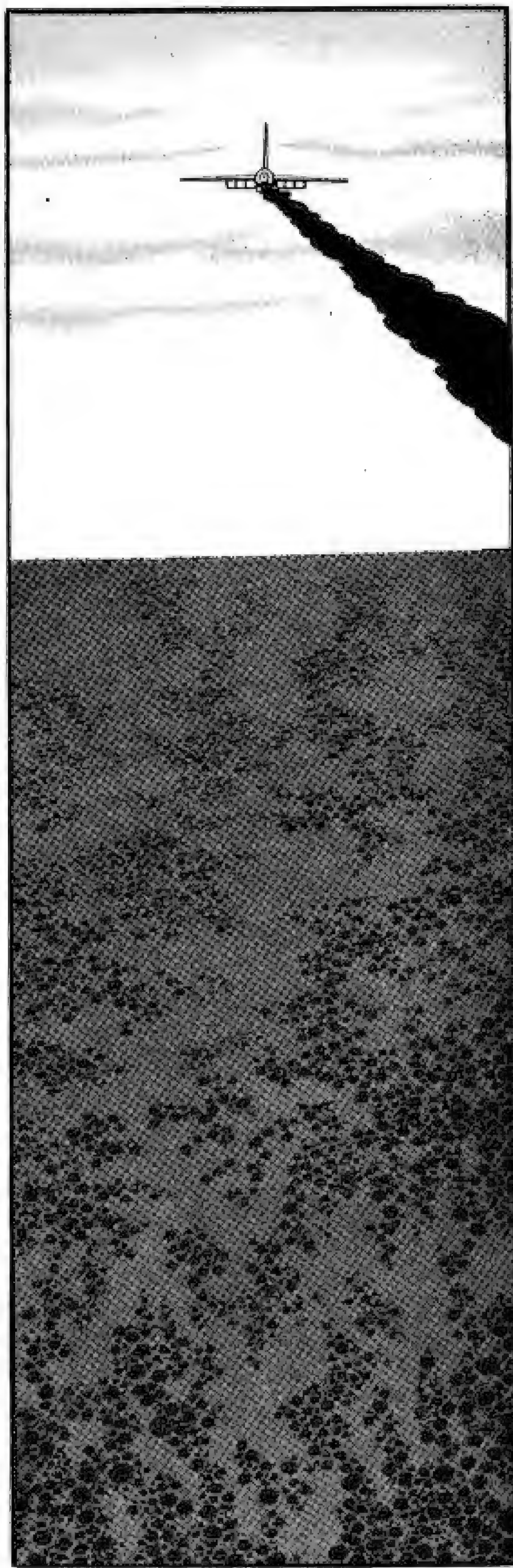
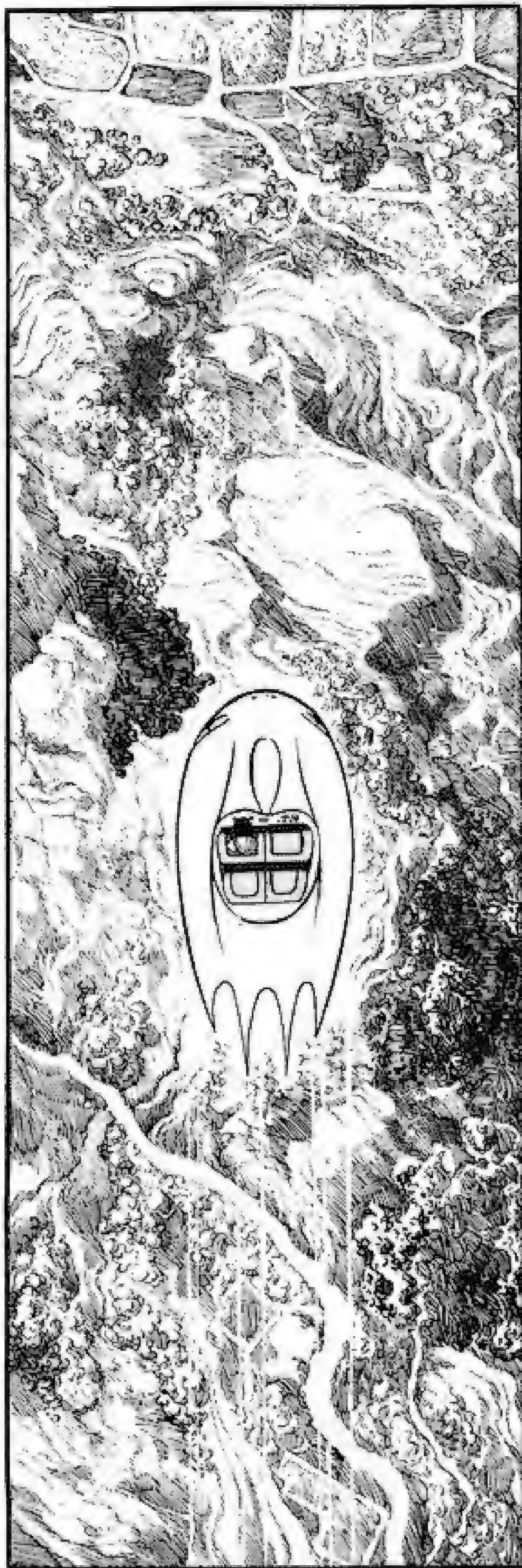
HE'S THE
ONE WHO
BROUGHT
ME BACK
TO LIFE.

SO LONG!
SEE YOU AROUND, FOLKS!



AND DON'T WORRY,
I WON'T PRESS
CHARGES AGAINST
YOU FOR TRYING
TO MURDER ME.

CURSES!
NOTHING
BUT
ASHES!





MY YOUTH HAS VANISHED.
NOW I HAVE TO MAKE
A NEW START WITH
THIS *NEW* BODY...

NO MATTER HOW MUCH
I'VE CHANGED...
THERE HAS TO BE A
LIFE FOR ME...
BUT HOW SHALL I
FIND IT?



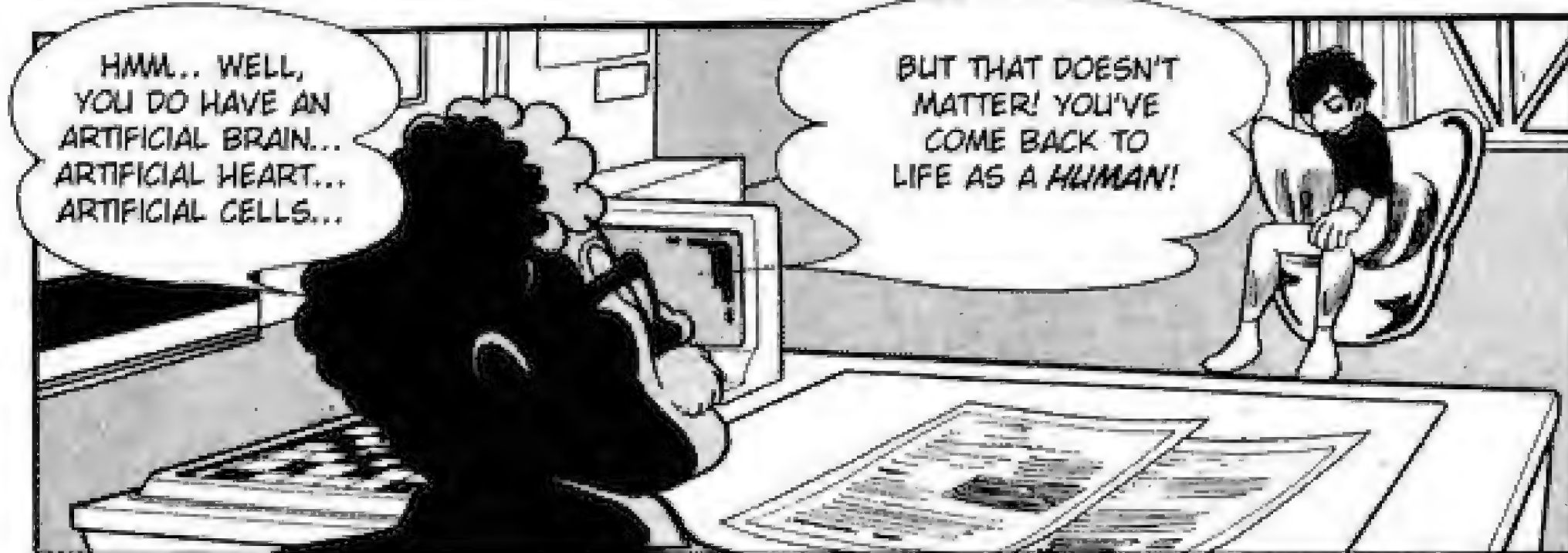
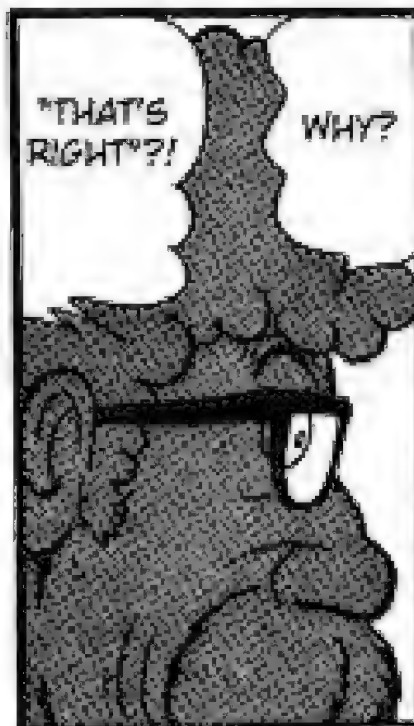
WHAT KIND
OF LIFE
SHOULD
I LEAD?



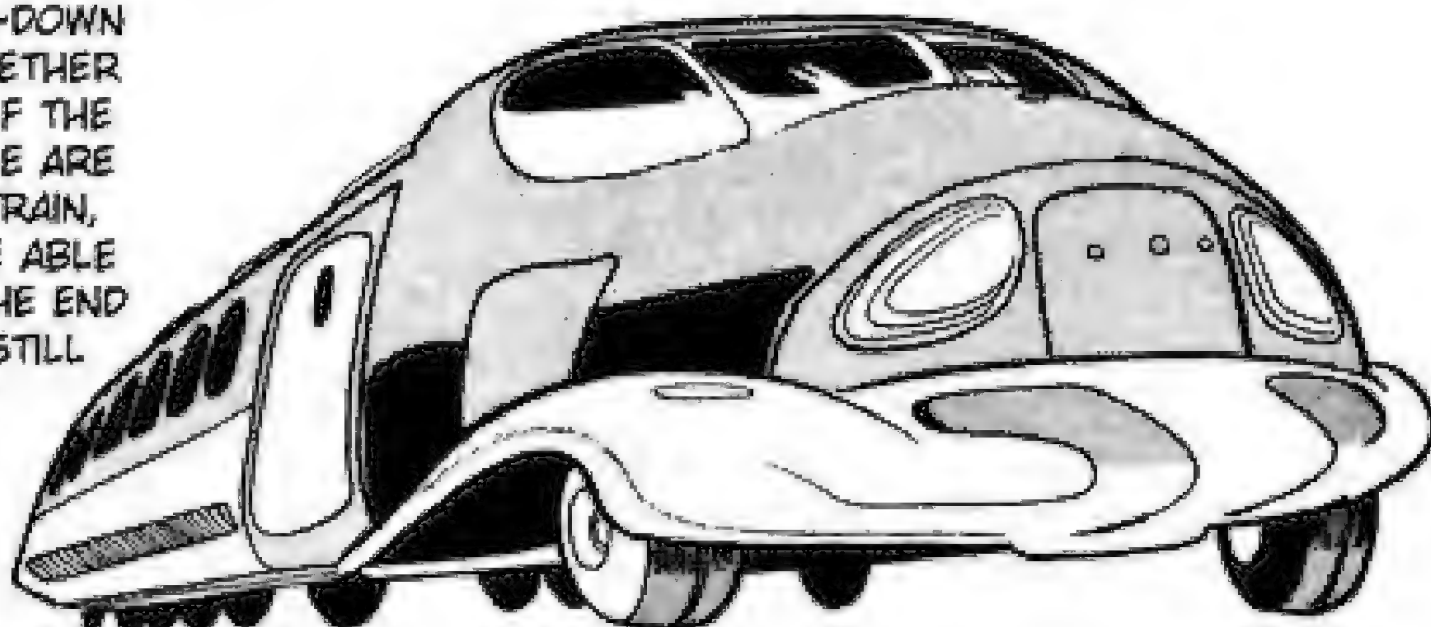
HOW CAN
I LIVE
THIS LIFE
TO THE
FULLEST?

LATER





BUT DOCTOR, IF YOU
PUT A BROKEN-DOWN
CAR BACK TOGETHER
AND OVER HALF THE
PARTS YOU USE ARE
THOSE OF A TRAIN,
WOULD YOU BE ABLE
TO SAY THAT THE END
PRODUCT IS STILL
A CAR?



STOP
THIS
NON-
SENSE,
LEON!

IF I MADE YOU
INTO A *ROBOT*
THERE WOULDN'T
BE ANY MEANING
TO MY BRINGING
MEN BACK TO *LIFE*!



BUT I DON'T
WANT TO BE
HALF THIS AND
HALF THAT.
I WANT TO
BE WHOLE!

PLEASE,
DOCTOR!
WHAT AM
I TO BE...
A MAN
OR A
ROBOT!

MAKE ME
INTO ONE
OR THE
OTHER!
PLEASE!



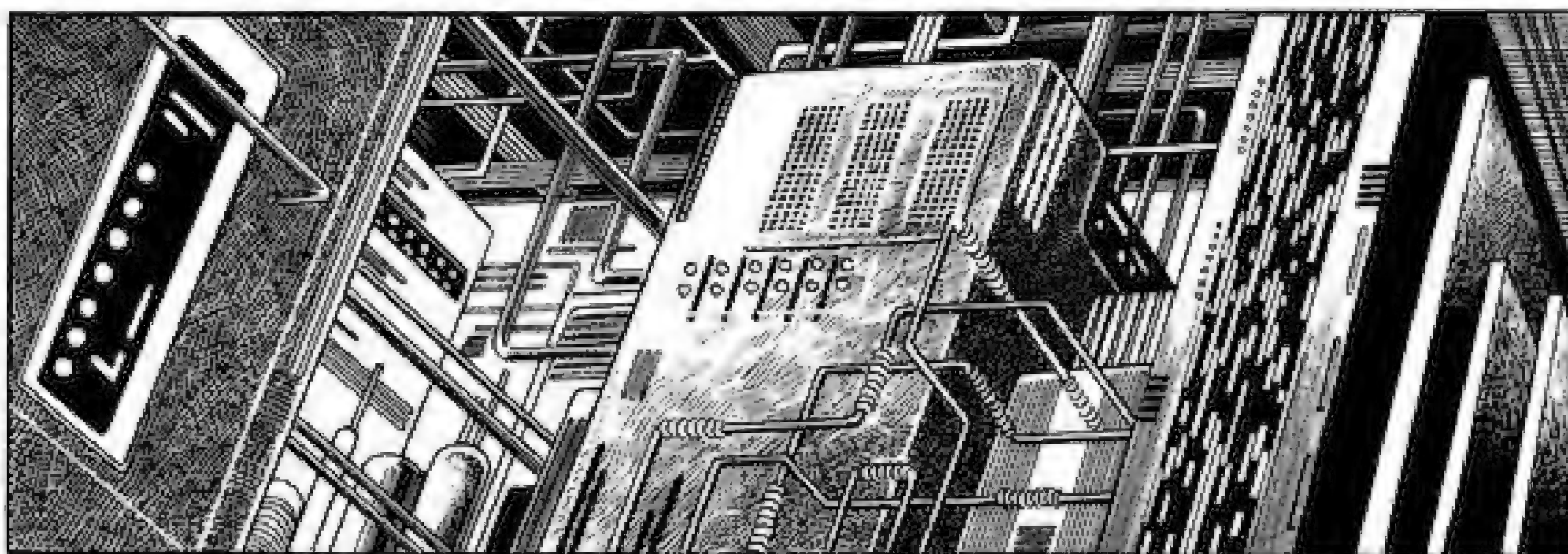
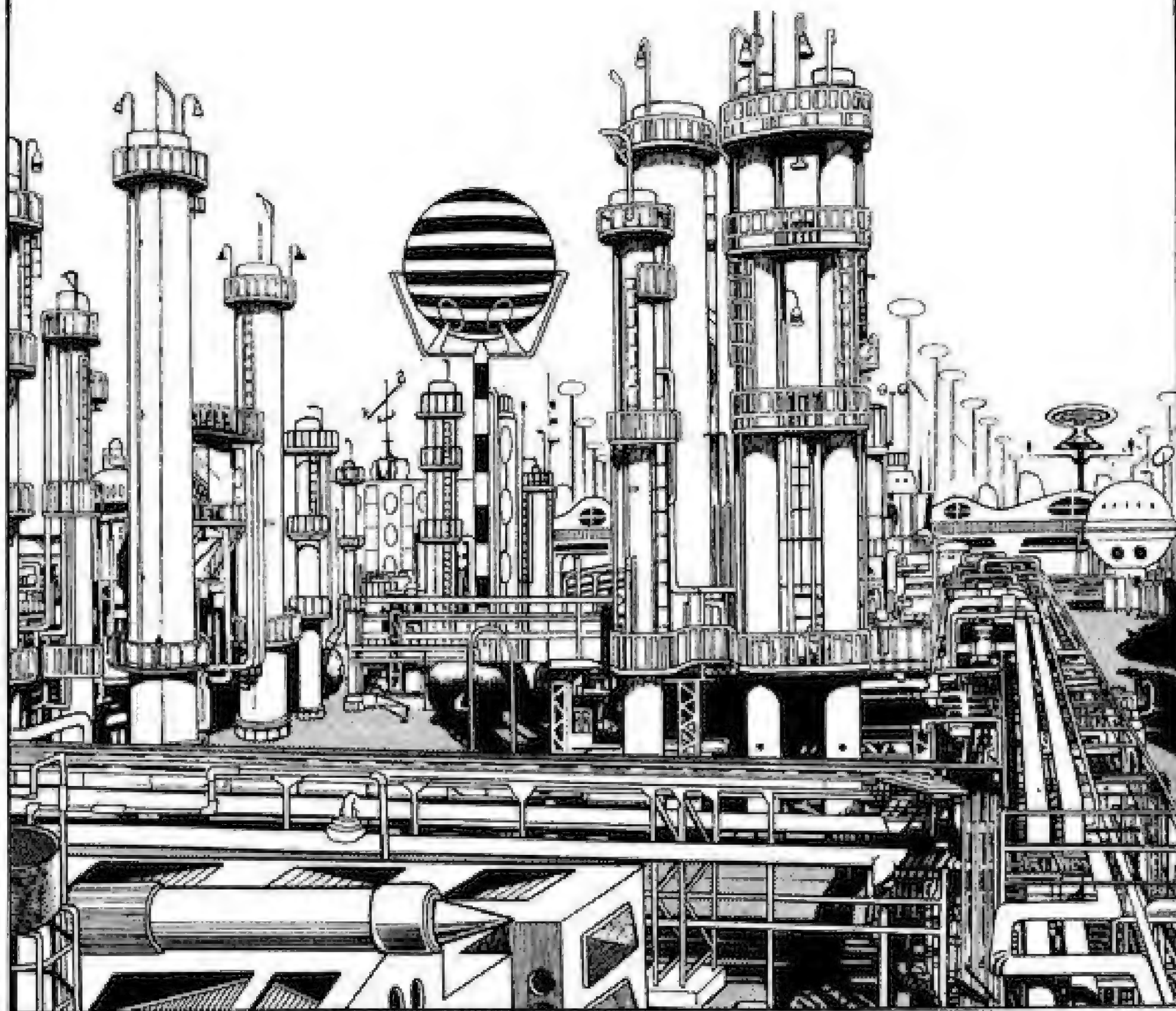
I
WANT TO
BECOME A
ROBOT

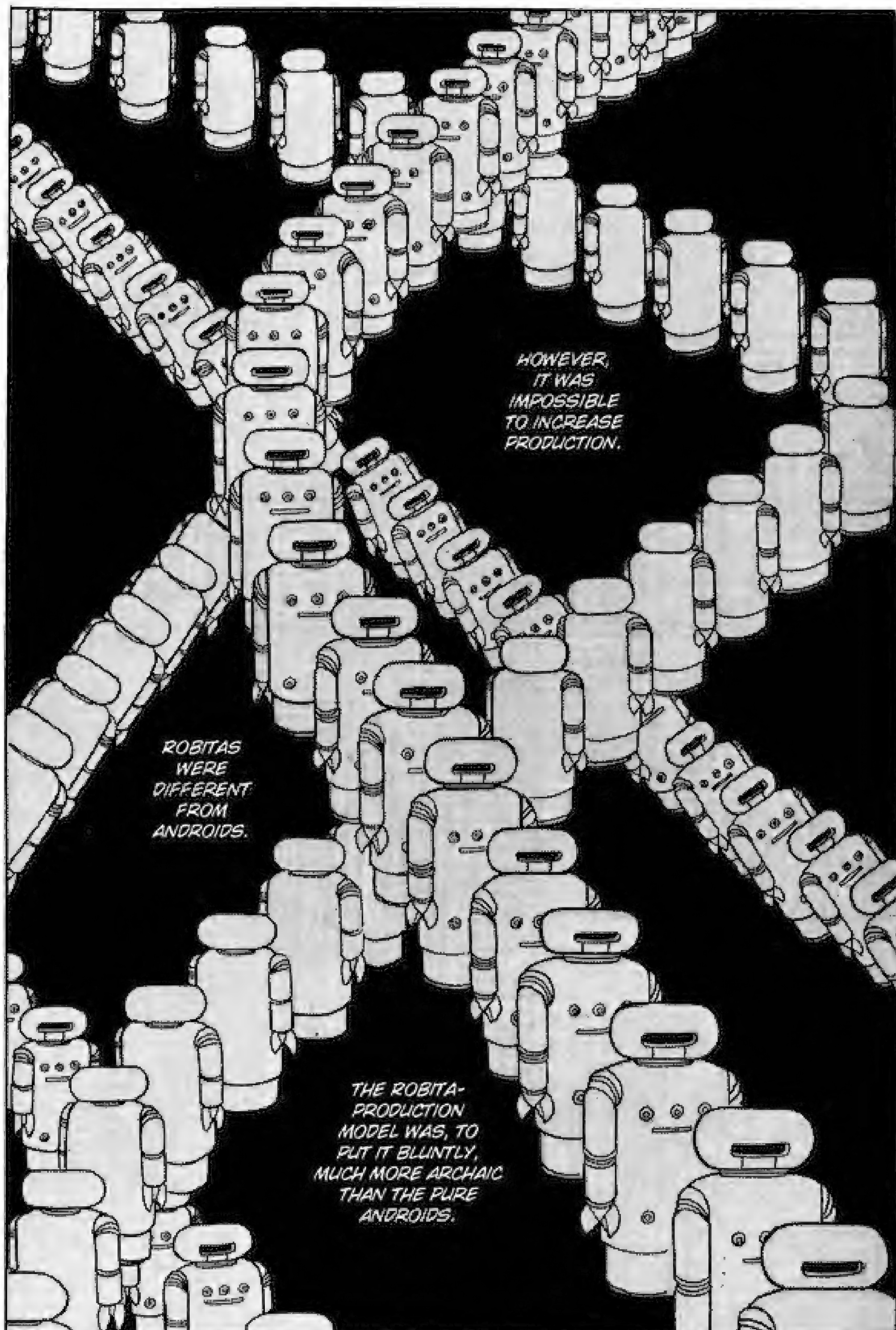




AD 3009

THE ROBOTA MANUFACTURING
PLANT TURNED OUT 500
ROBOTS A DAY AND
SHIPPED THEM TO THEIR
NEW OWNERS.



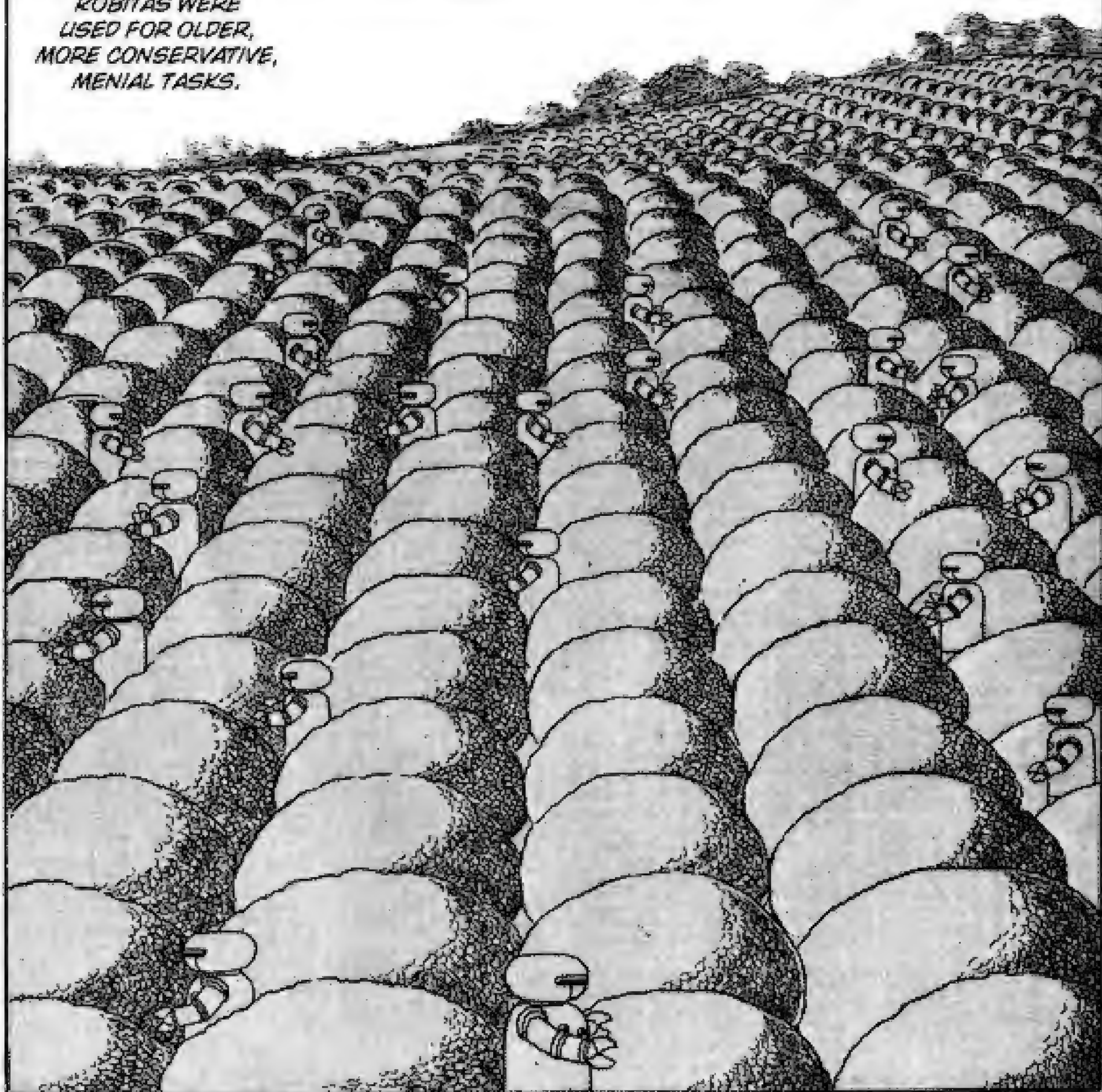


HOWEVER,
IT WAS
IMPOSSIBLE
TO INCREASE
PRODUCTION.

ROBITAS
WERE
DIFFERENT
FROM
ANDROIDS.

THE ROBITA-
PRODUCTION
MODEL WAS, TO
PUT IT BLUNTLY,
MUCH MORE ARCHAIC
THAN THE PURE
ANDROIDS.

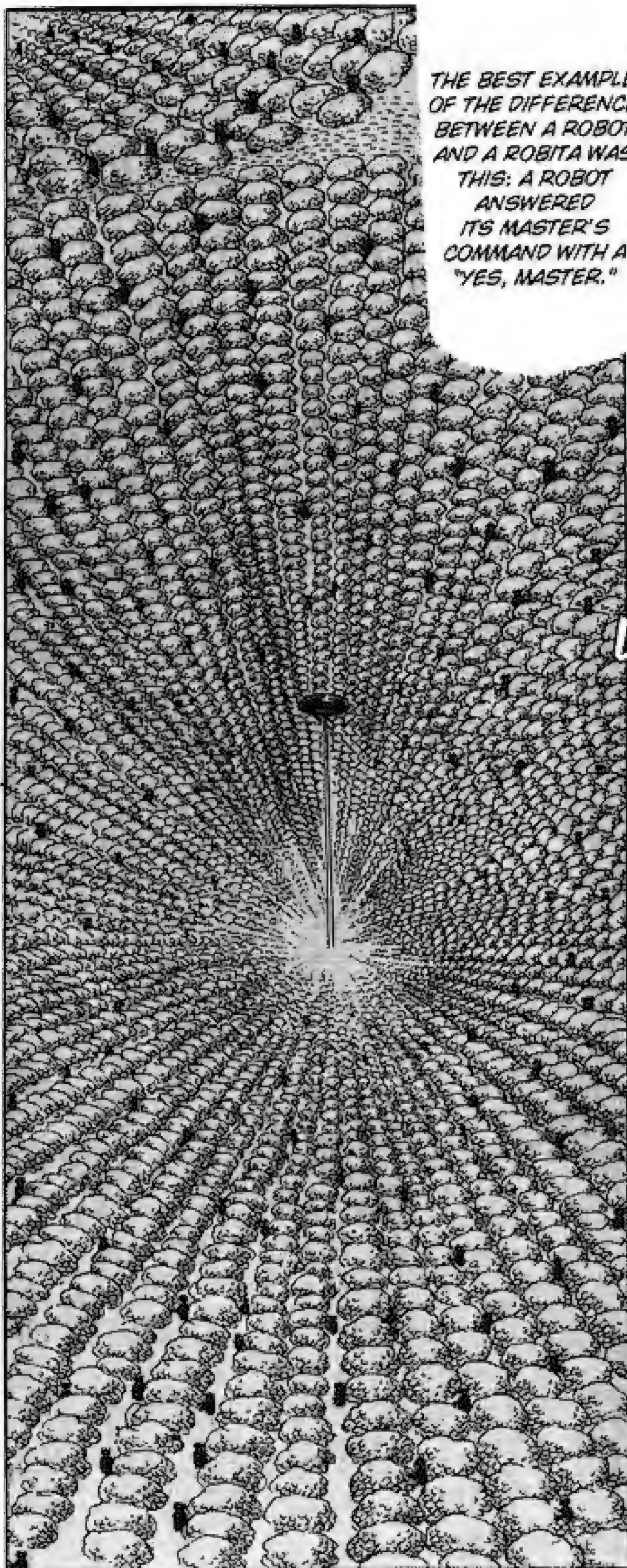
ROBITAS WERE
USED FOR OLDER,
MORE CONSERVATIVE,
MENIAL TASKS.



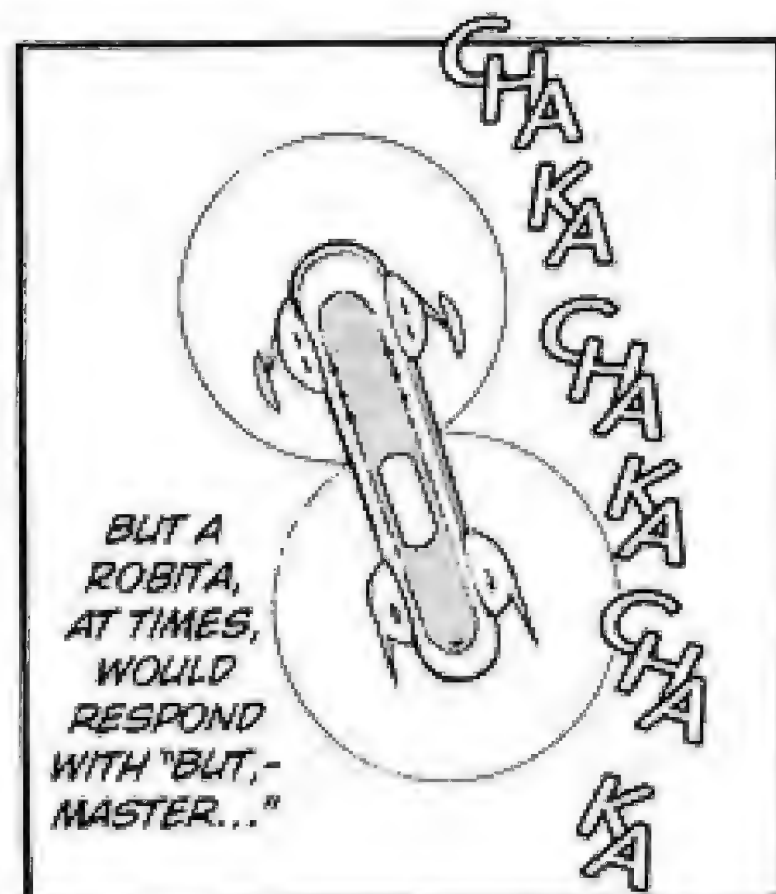
FOR
EXAMPLE,
THEY WERE
USED IN THE
ISOTOPE FARMS
TO WEED OUT
MUTANT PLANTS
OR TO AID IN
HARVESTING
AND PACKING.



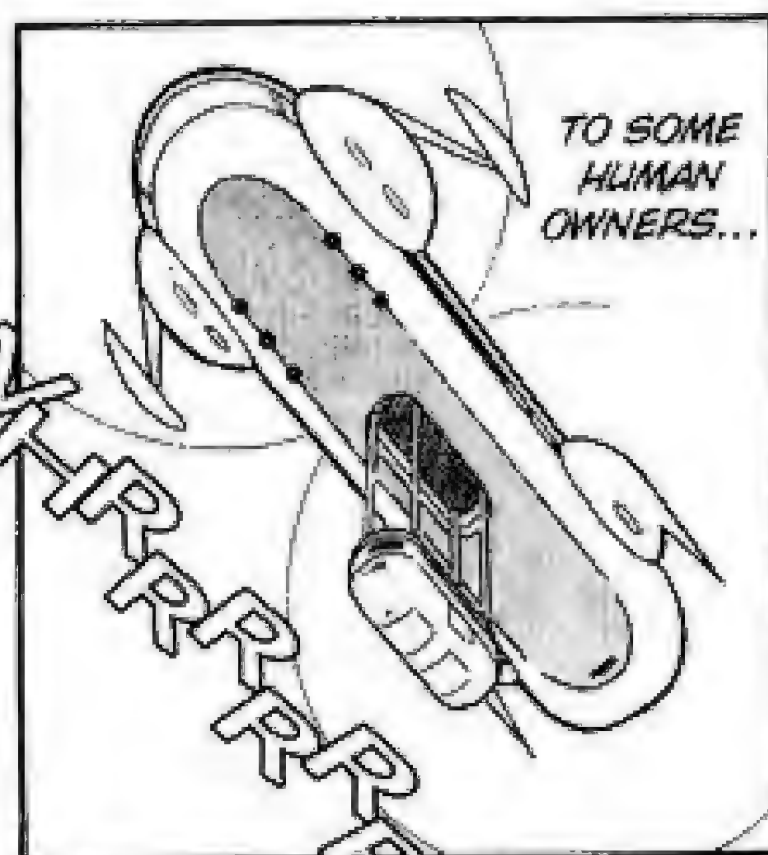
BUT IN CONTRAST
TO REGULAR ROBOTS,
THE BRAINS OF ROBITAS
WERE LIKE THOSE OF
MEN IN THAT THEY
BECAME TIRED AND
REQUIRED REST.
THEREFORE, THEIR
PRODUCTION
EFFICIENCY RATING
WAS RELATIVELY LOW.



THE BEST EXAMPLE
OF THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN A ROBOT
AND A ROBITA WAS
THIS: A ROBOT
ANSWERED
ITS MASTER'S
COMMAND WITH A
"YES, MASTER."



BUT A
ROBITA,
AT TIMES,
WOULD
RESPOND
WITH "BUT,-
MASTER..."

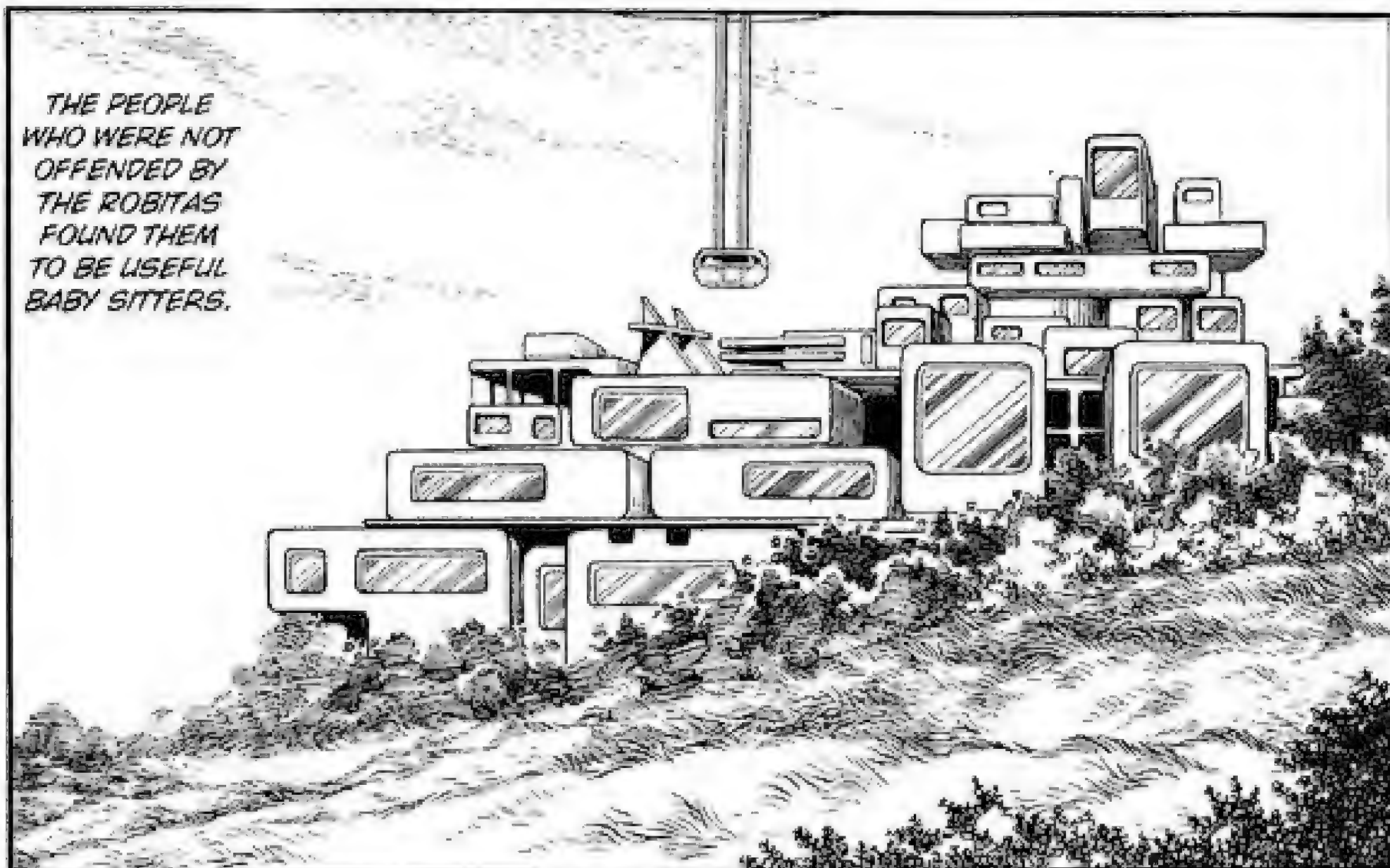


TO SOME
HUMAN
OWNERS...



THIS KIND OF
RESPONSE
BORDERED ON
INSUBOR-
DINATION
...TO OTHERS
IT SEEMED TO
BE A WARM
HUMAN-LIKE
RESPONSE...

THE PEOPLE
WHO WERE NOT
OFFENDED BY
THE ROBITAS
FOUND THEM
TO BE USEFUL
BABY SITTERS.



I'M HOME...!



ROBITA!

WHERE'S
ROBITA?!



WHAT'S THIS?
YOU'RE CALLING
FOR ROBITA
EVEN BEFORE
YOU'VE SAID
"HELLO" TO
YOUR MOTHER?

OH... IS
MAMA HOME,
TOO?



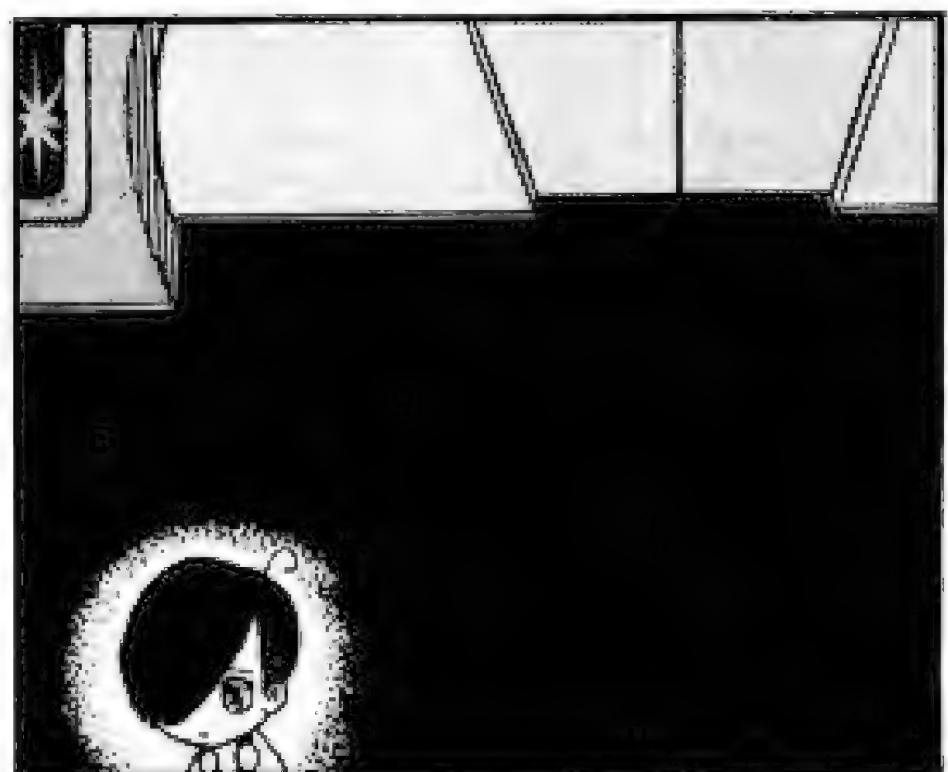
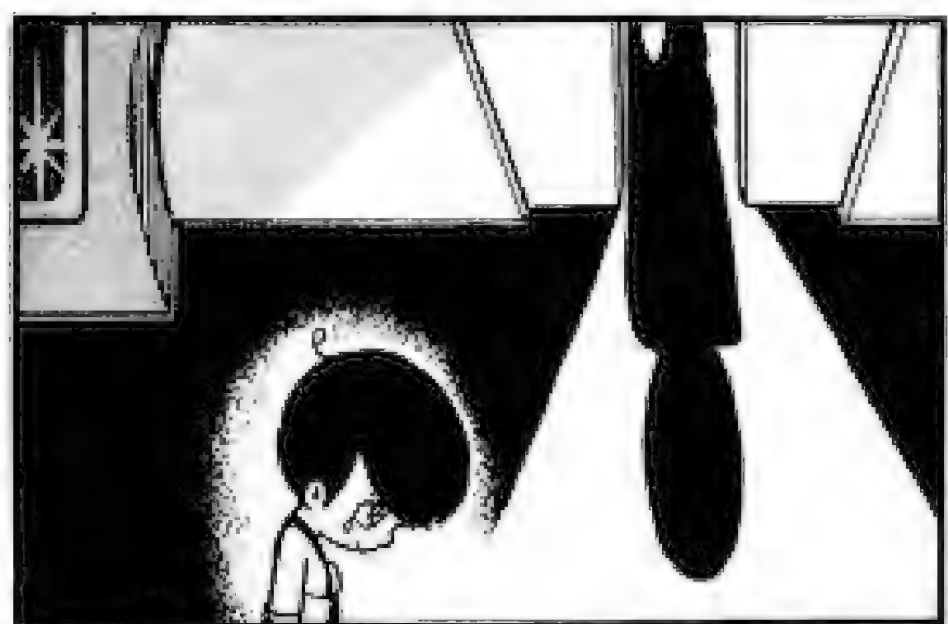
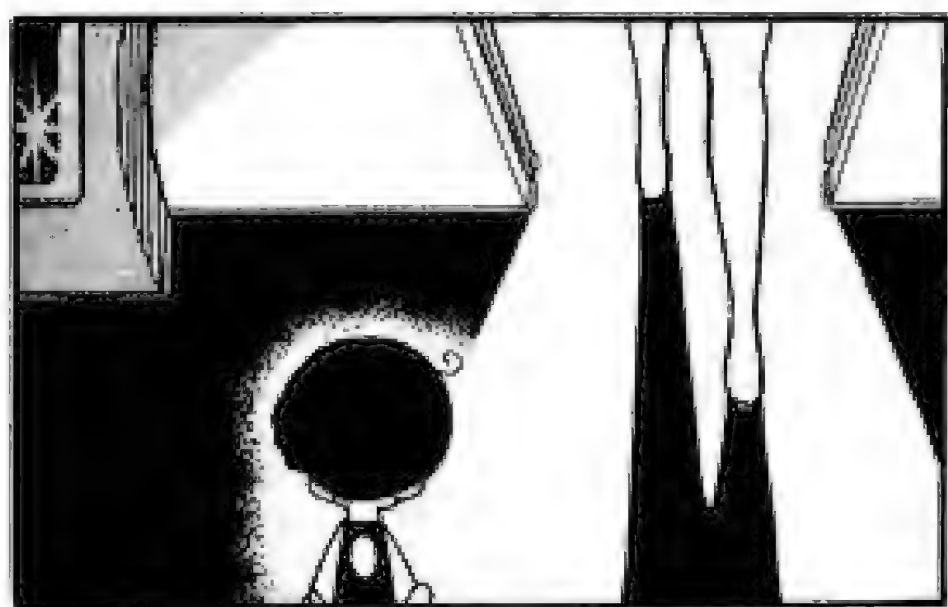
WHY YES,
SHE CAME
BACK FROM
HER TRIP
TODAY.

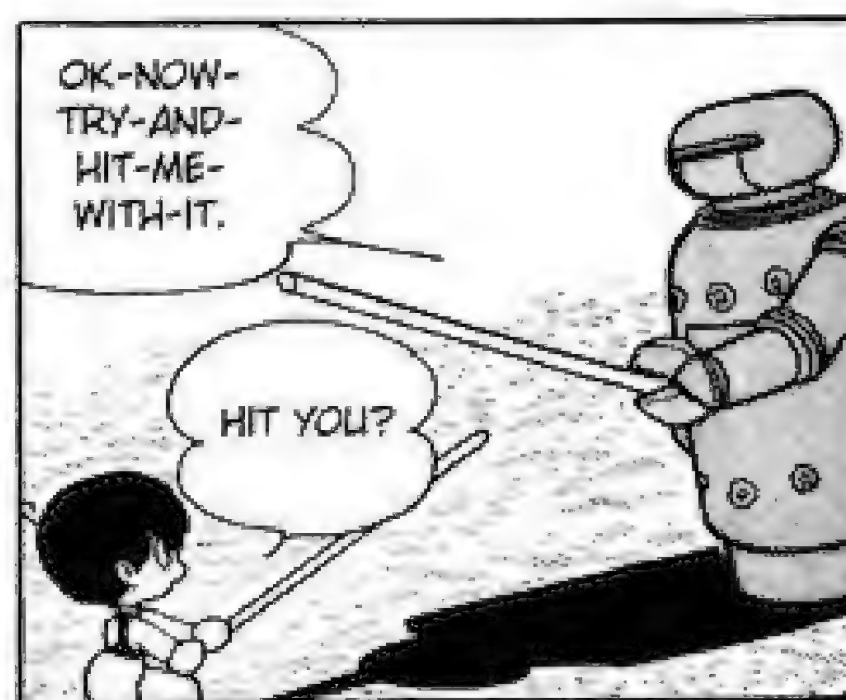
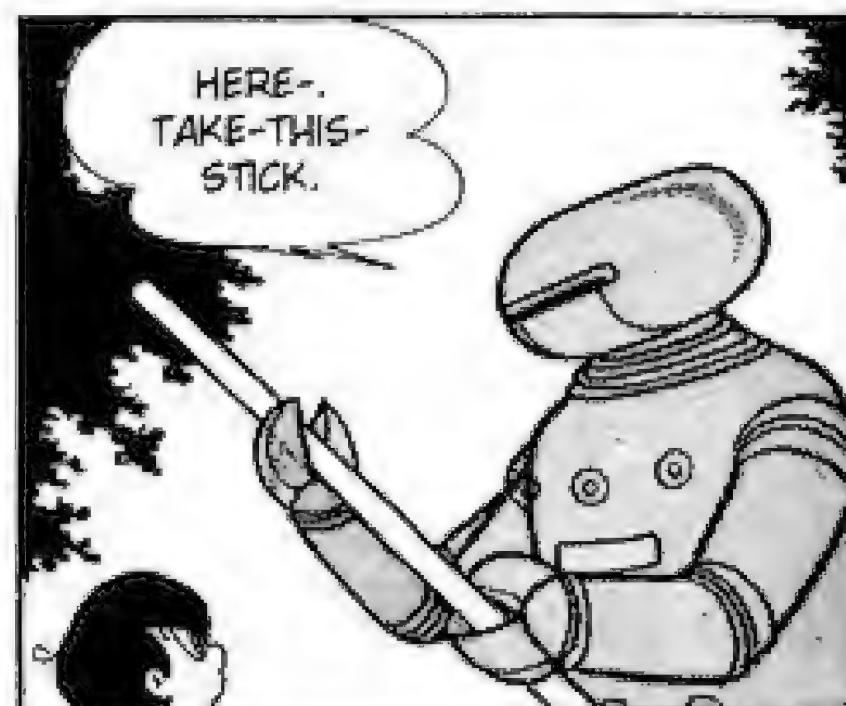
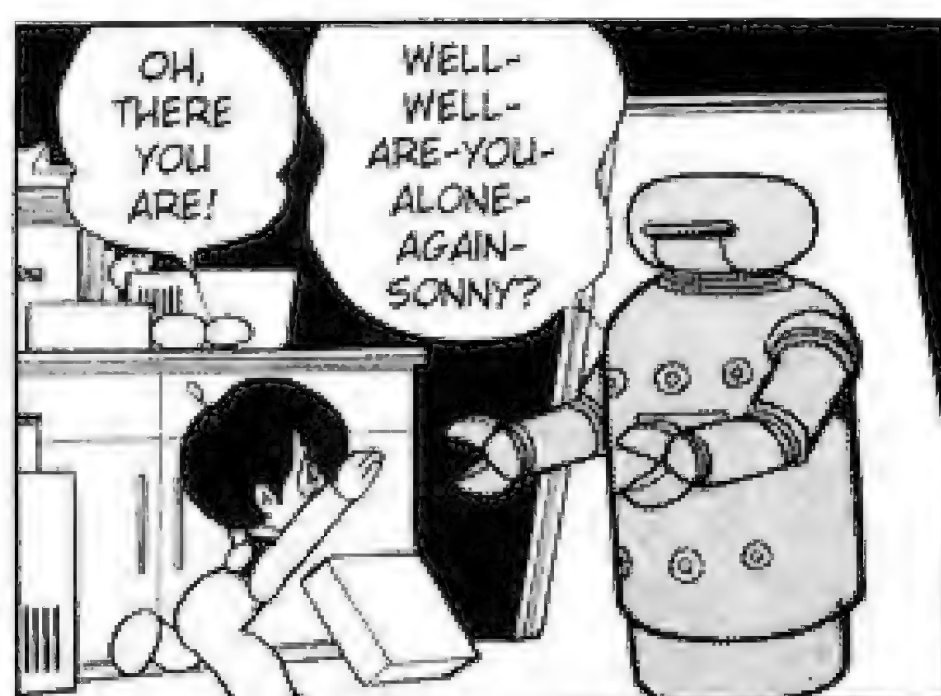
LET'S GO
SAY "HELLO"
TO HER.

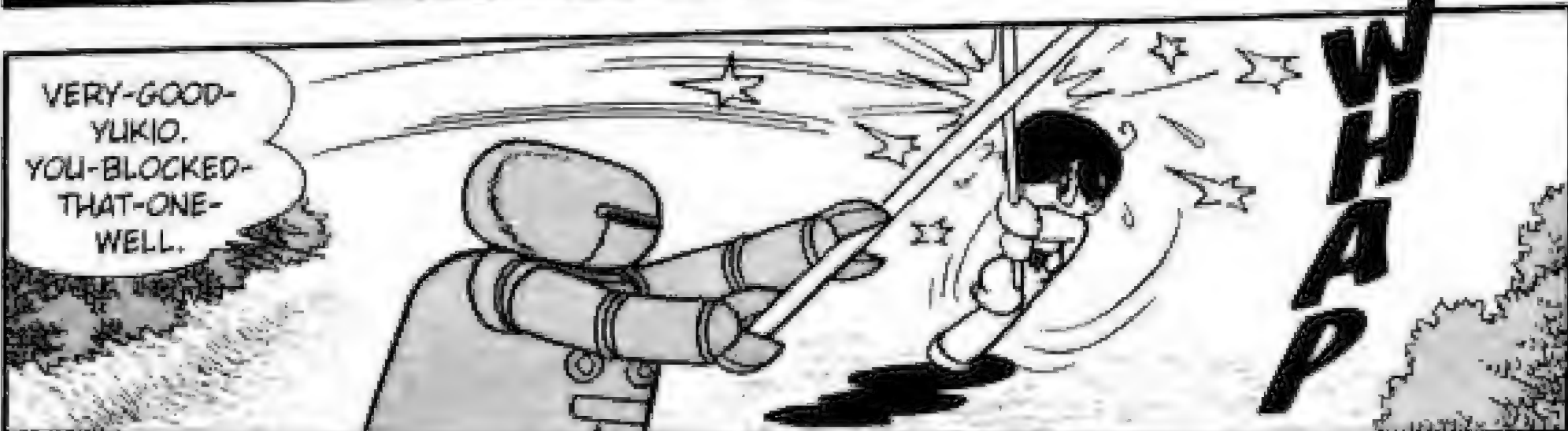
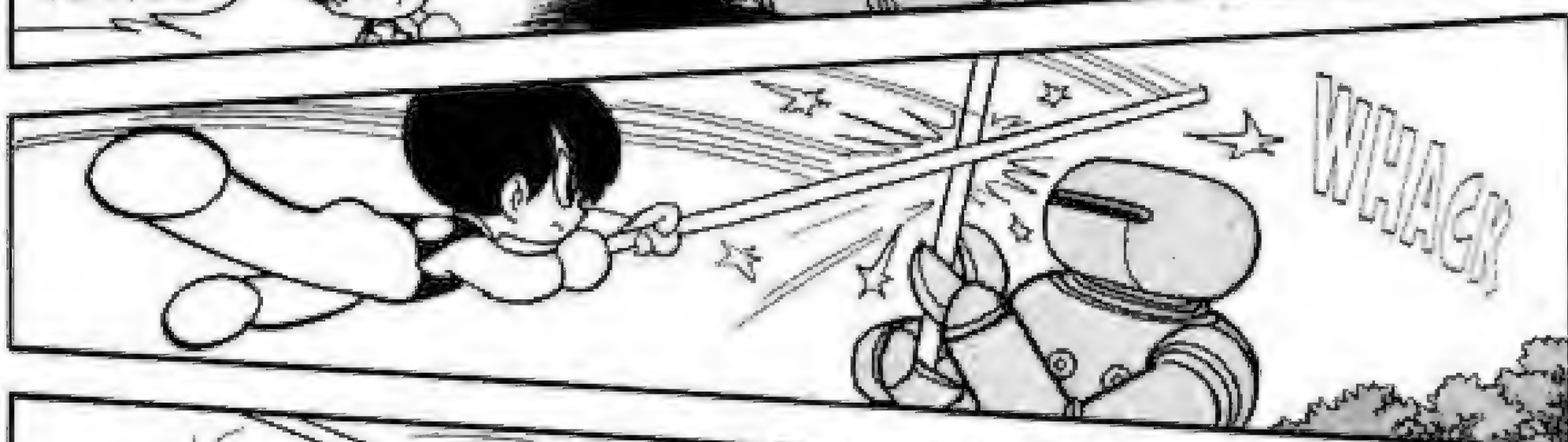
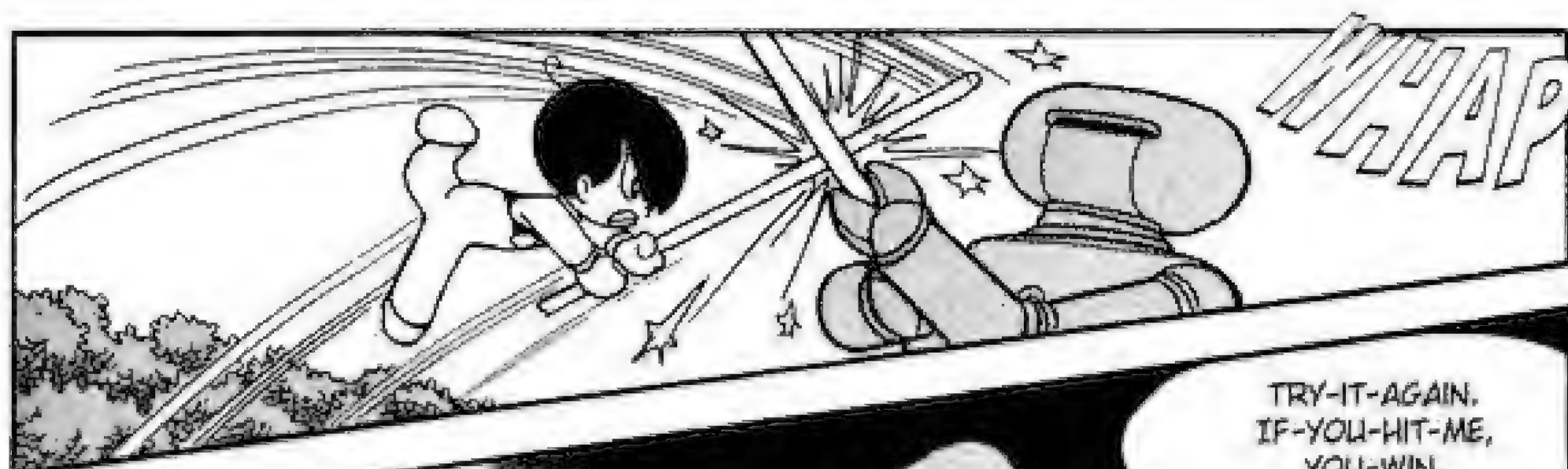




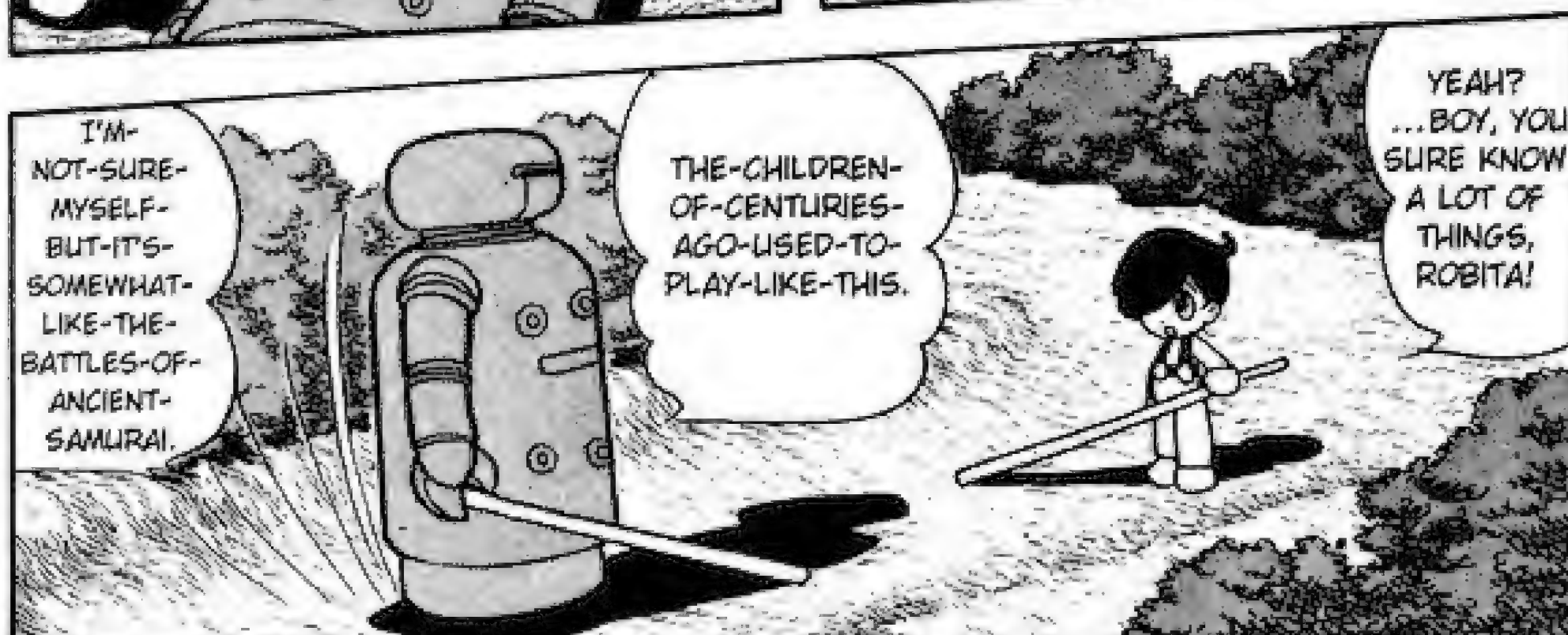
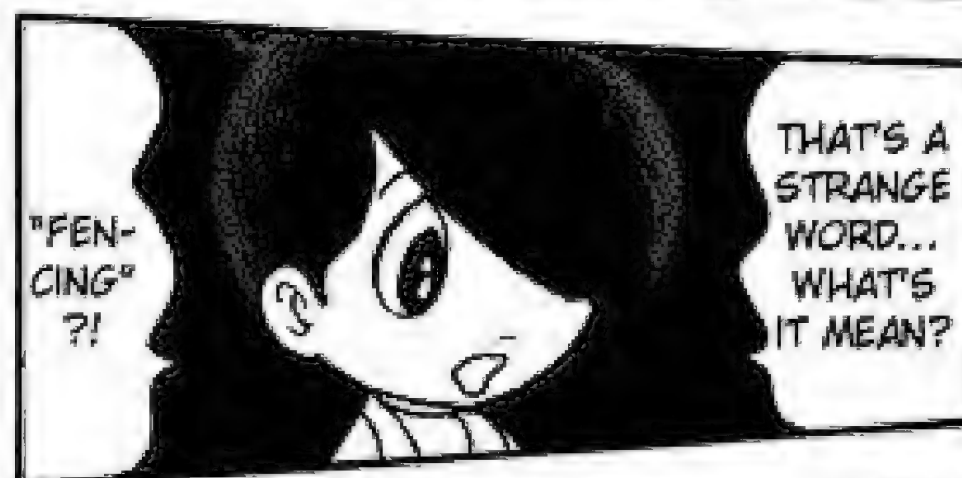
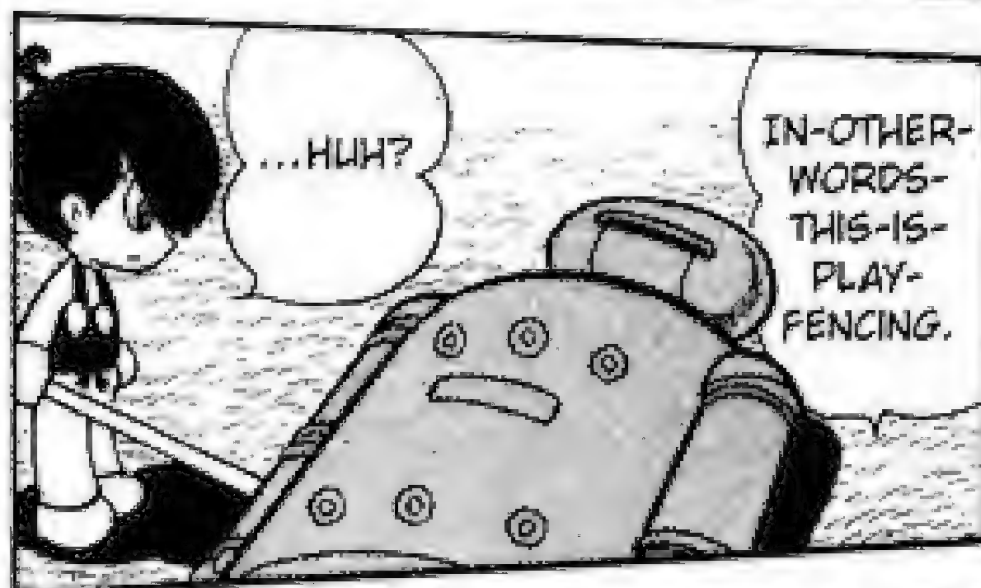
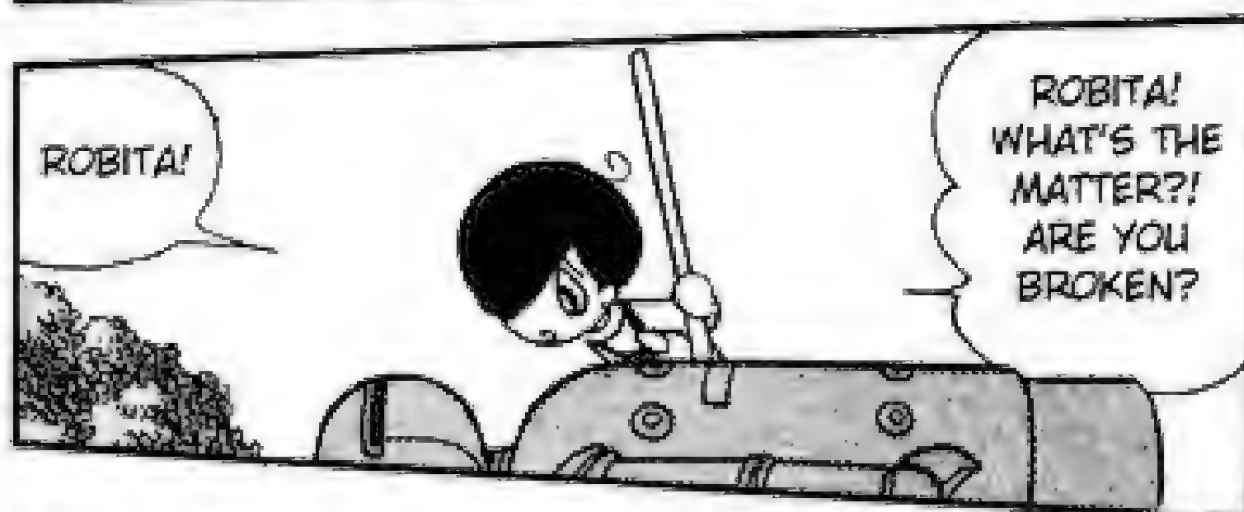
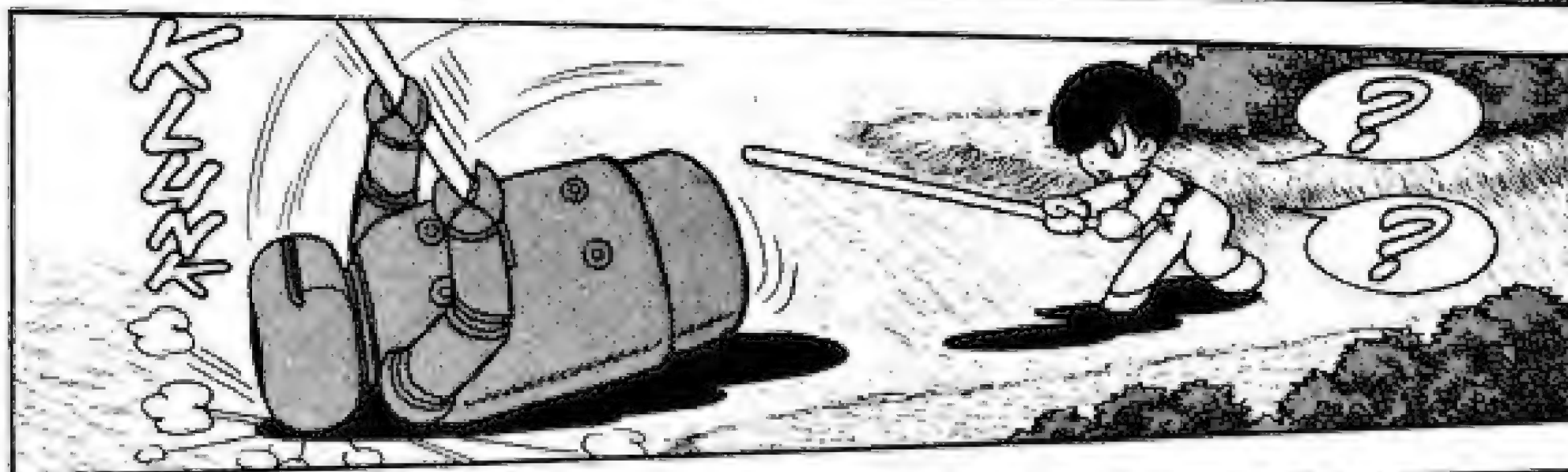
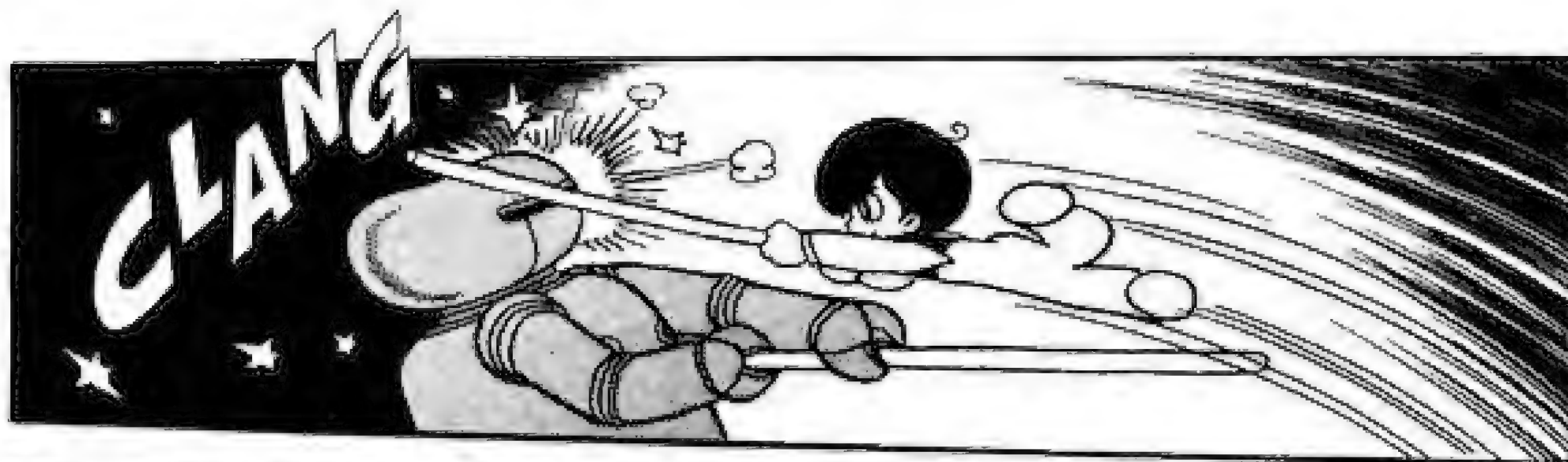


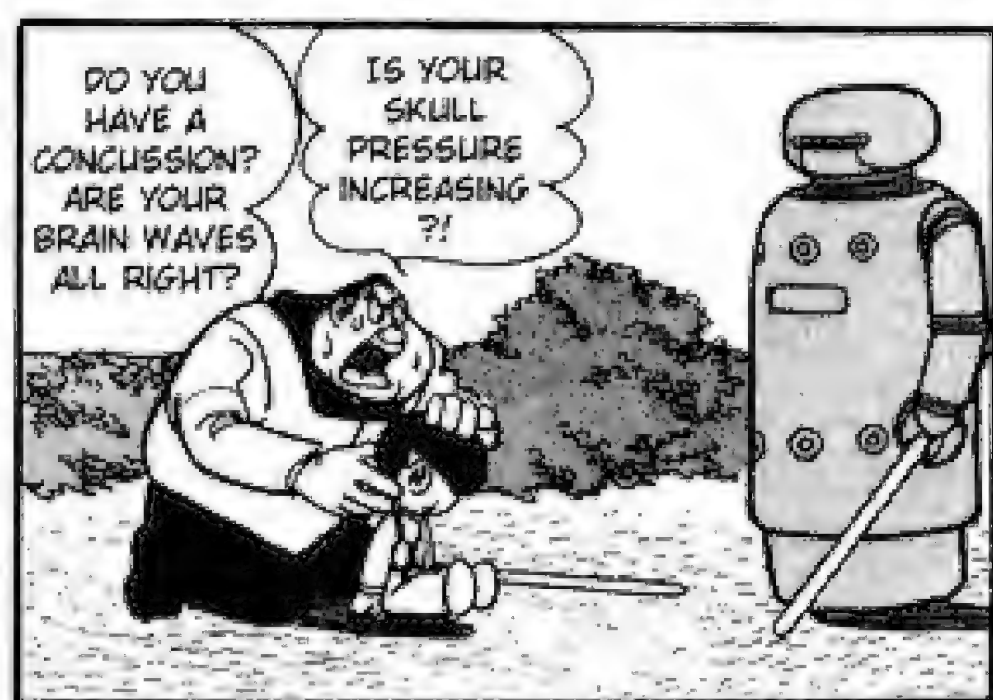
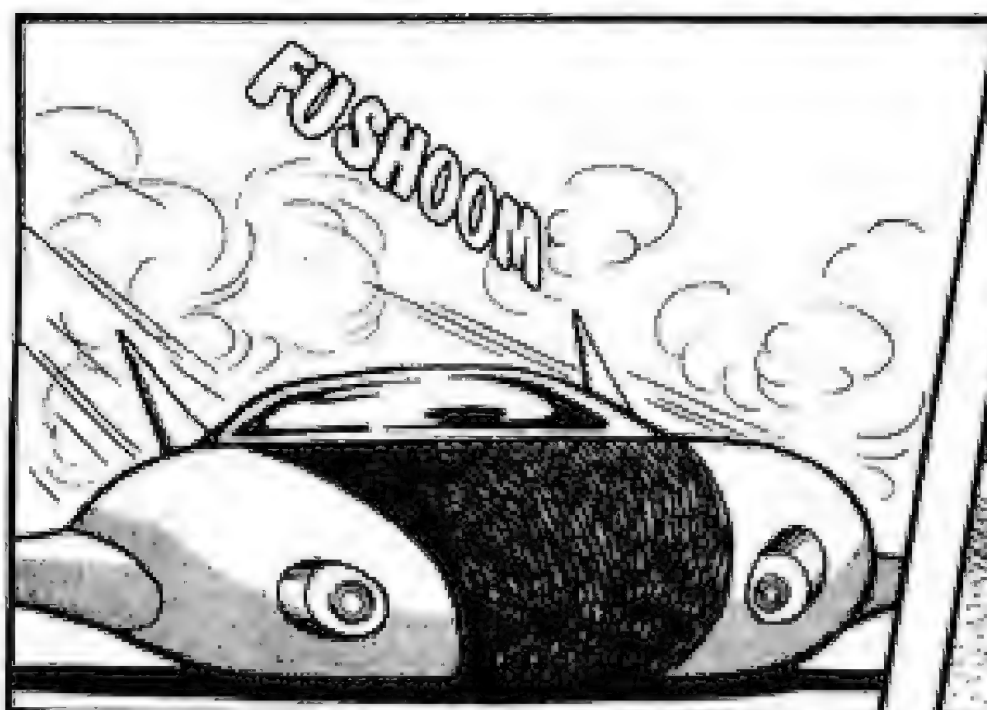
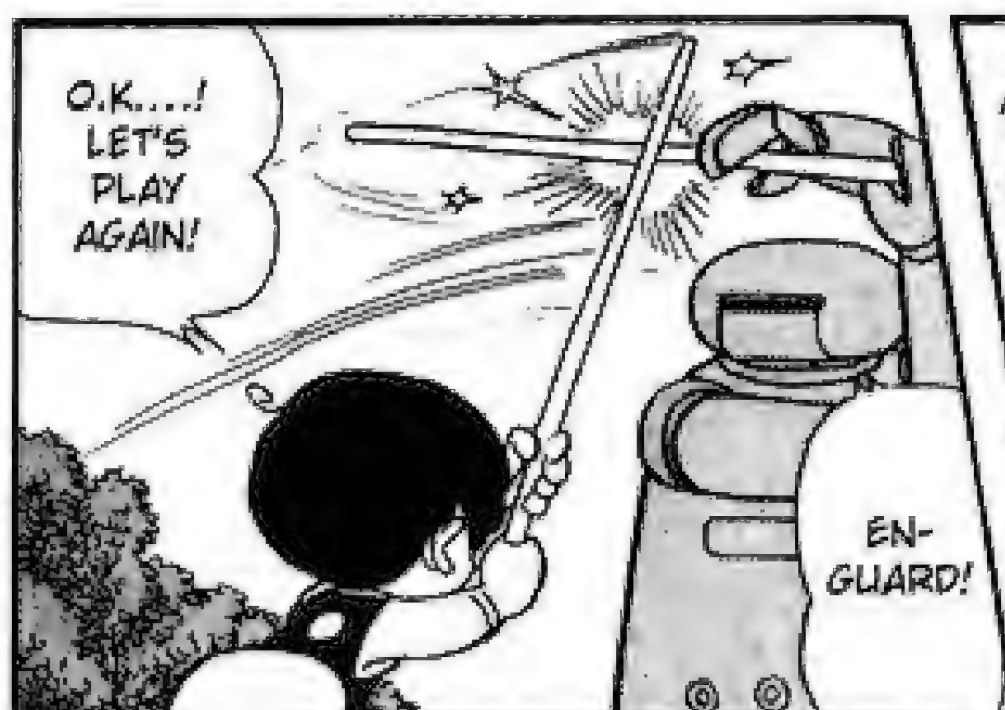


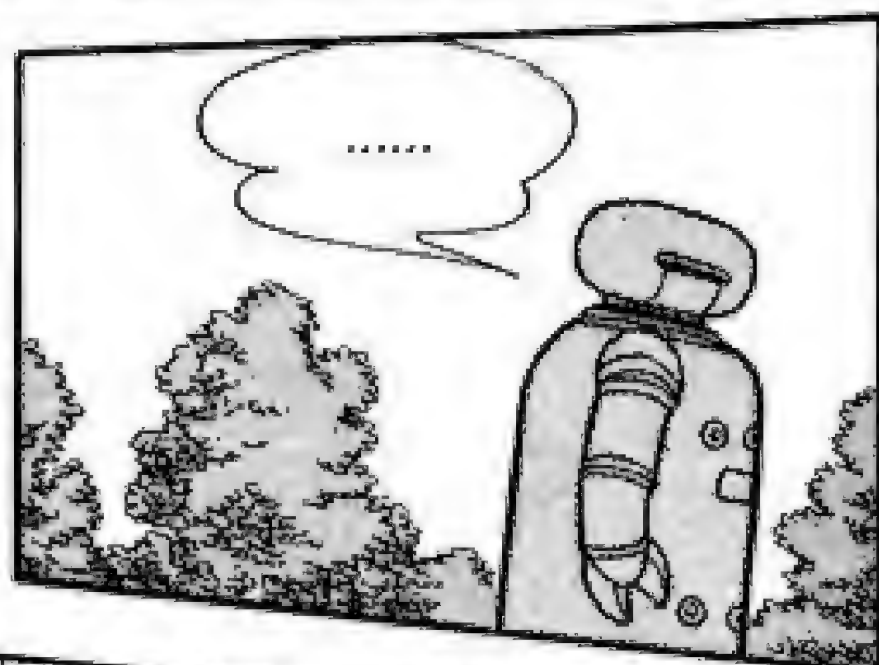


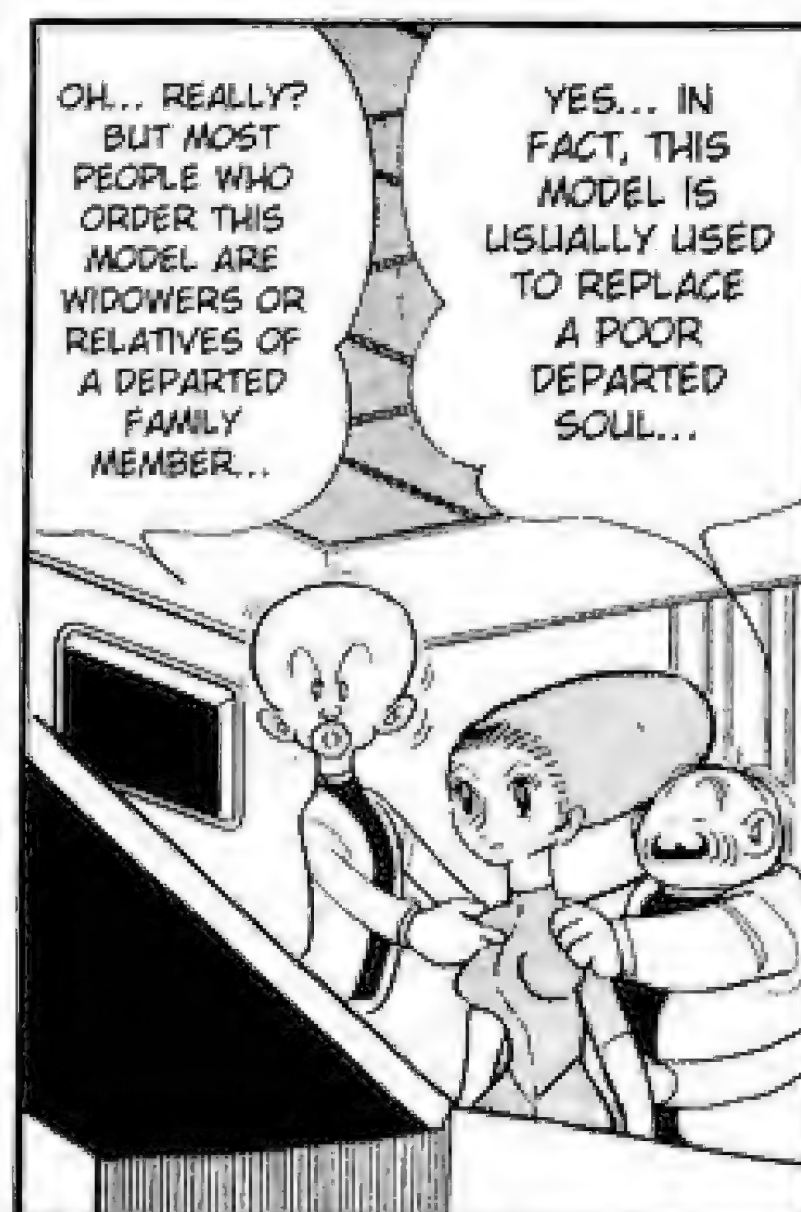
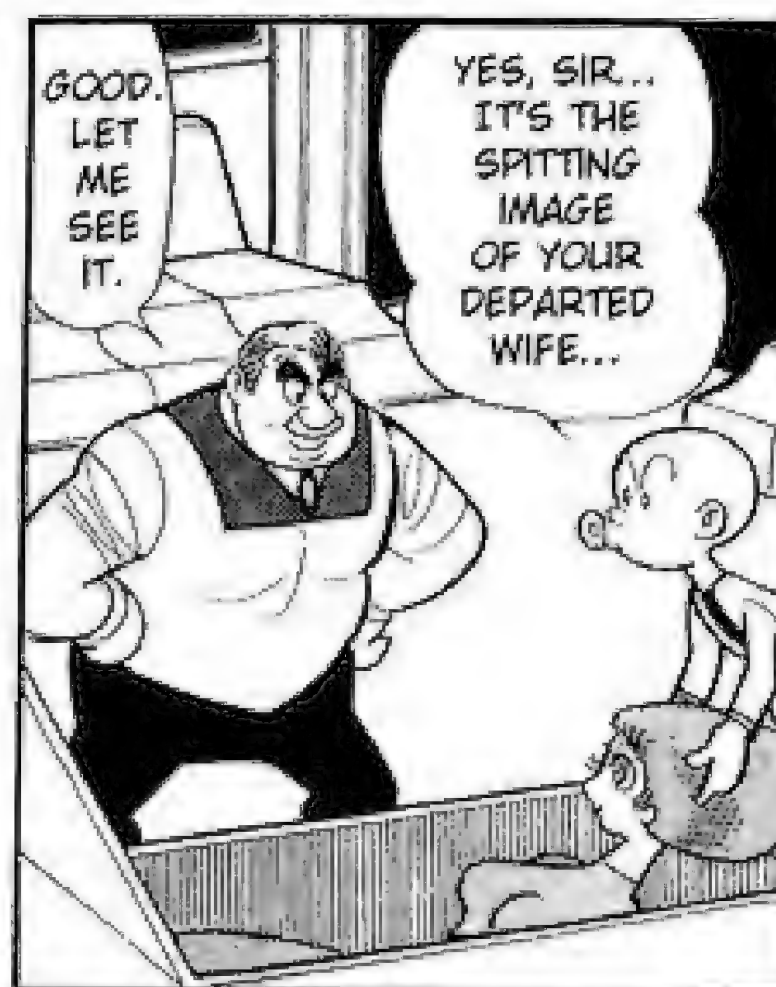
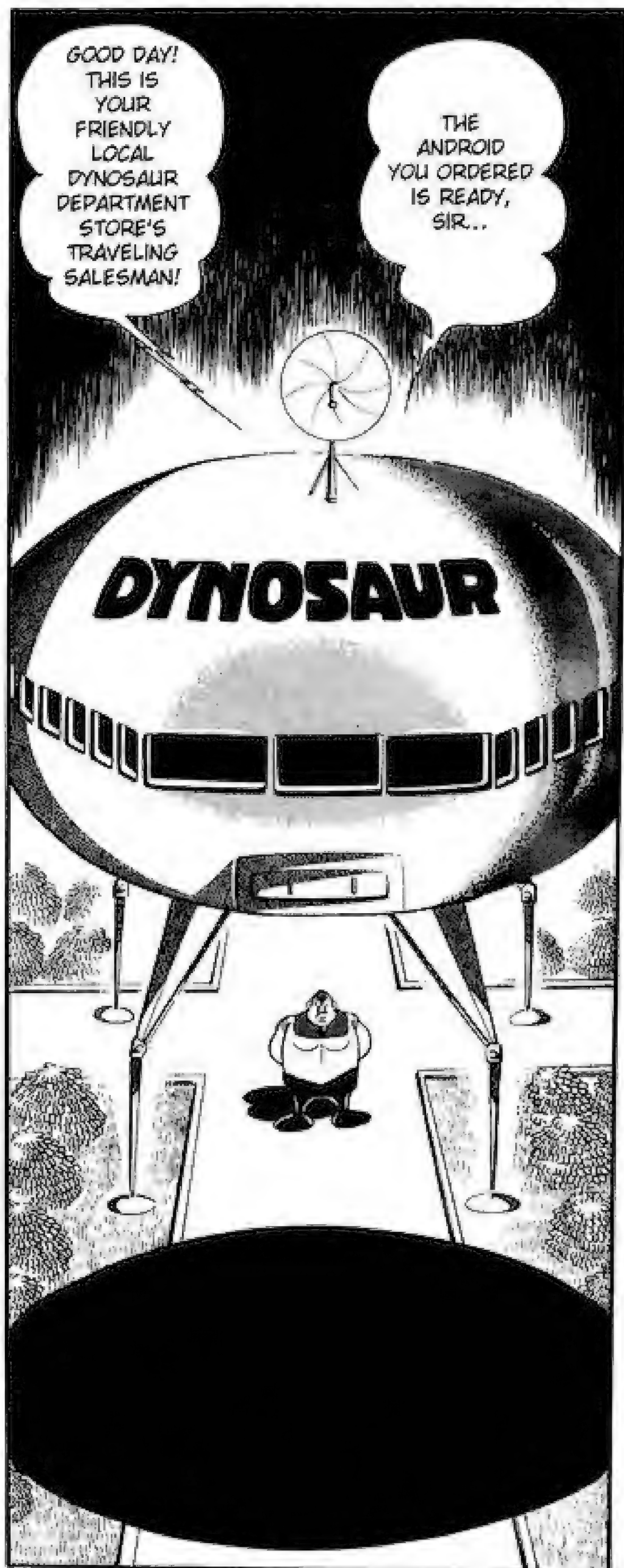


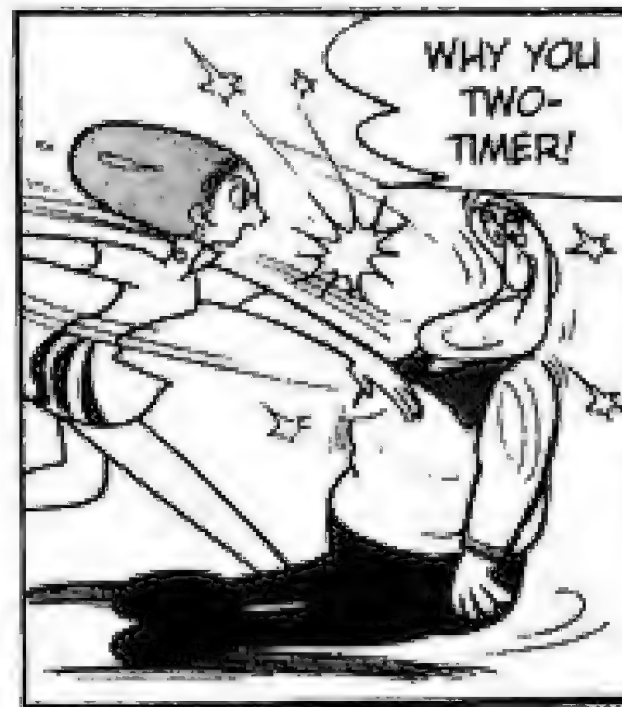
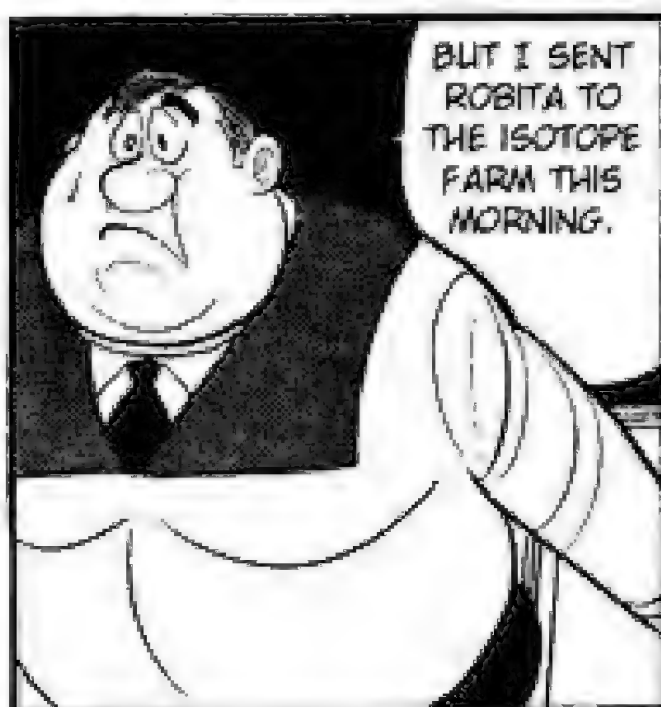
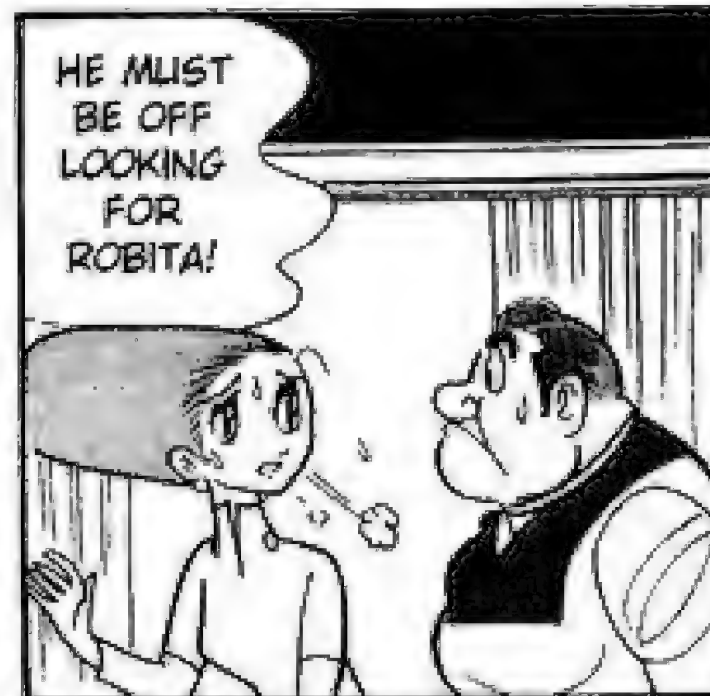
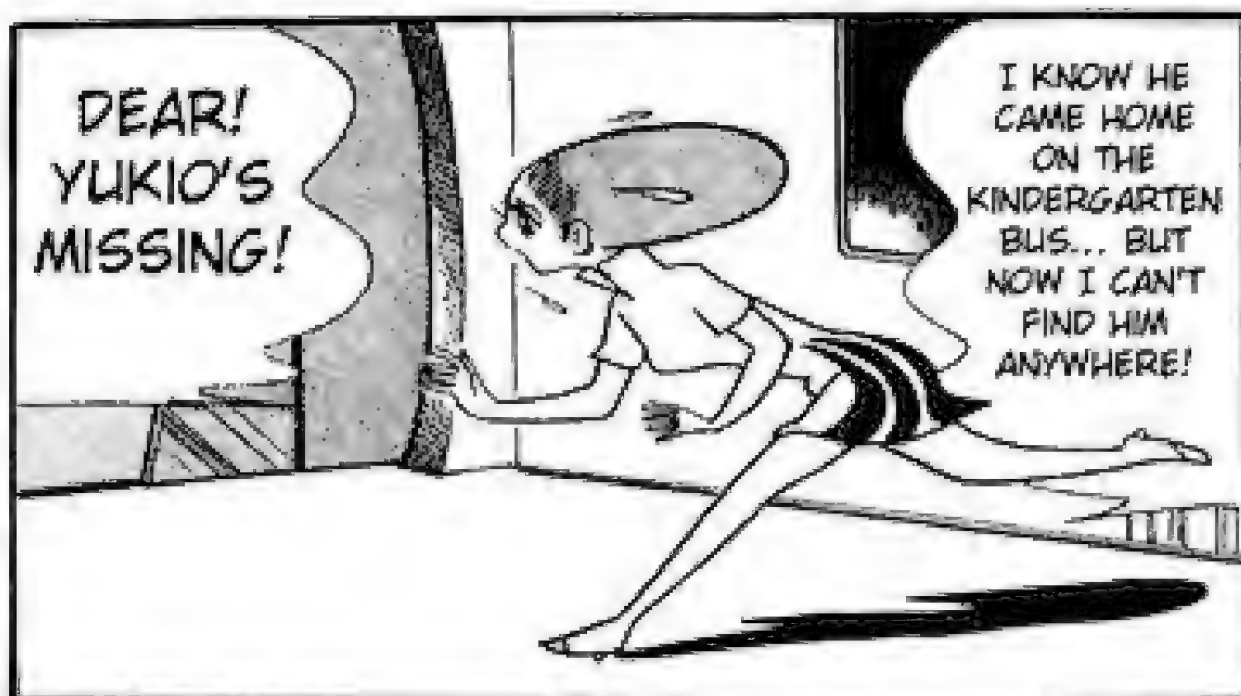
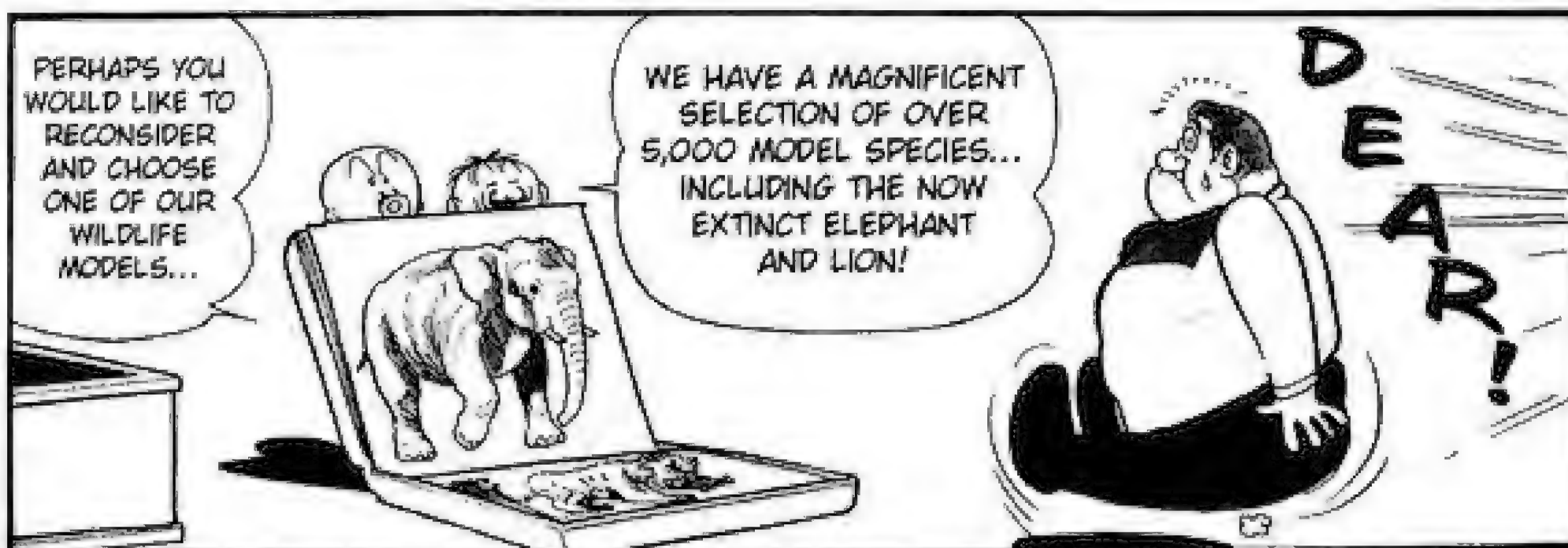
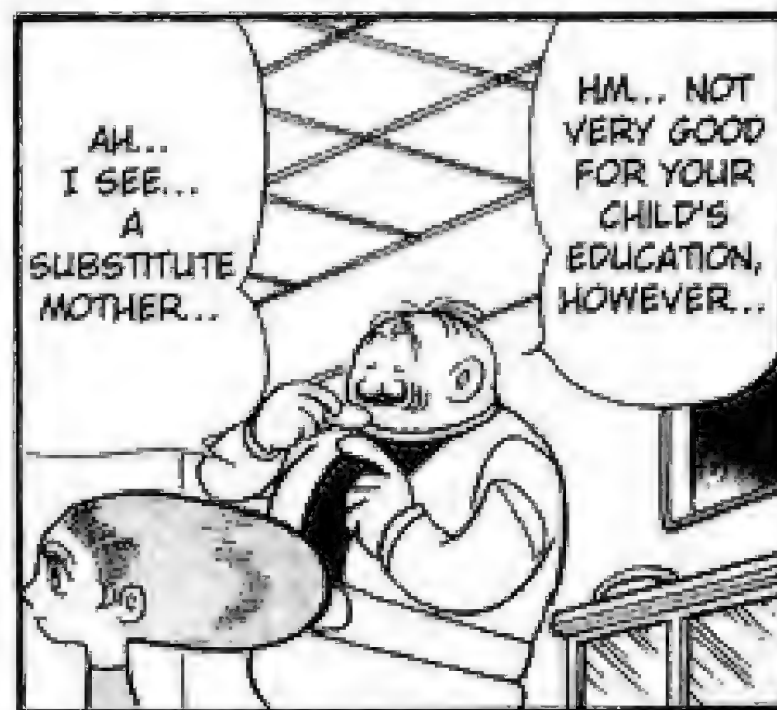
VERY-GOOD-YUKIO. YOU-BLOCKED-THAT-ONE-WELL.

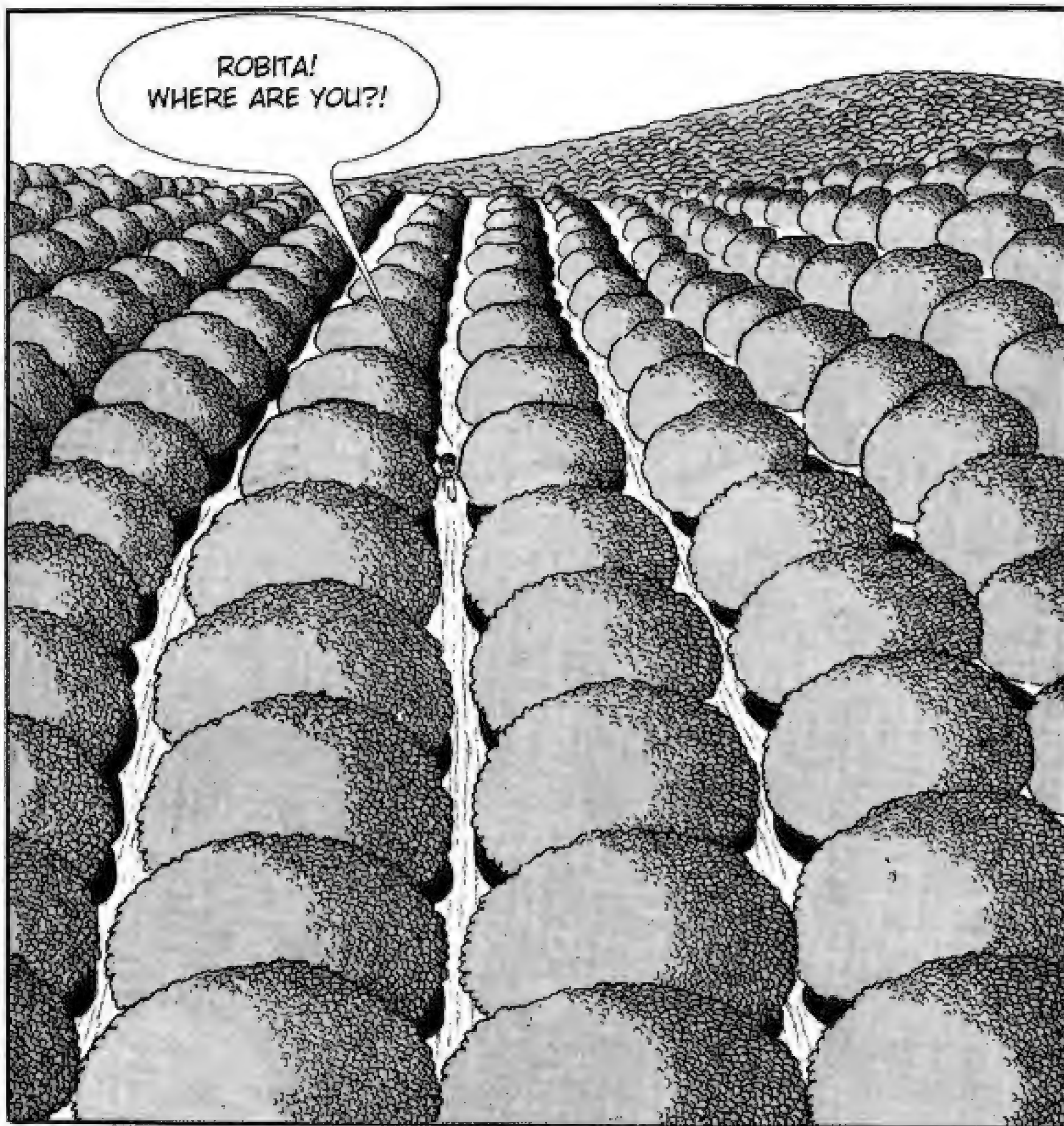












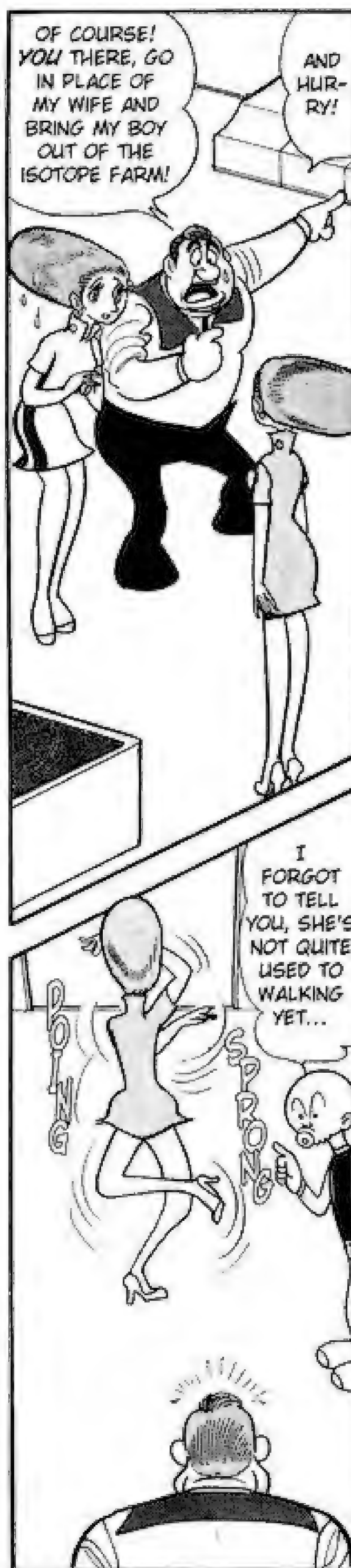
ROBITA!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

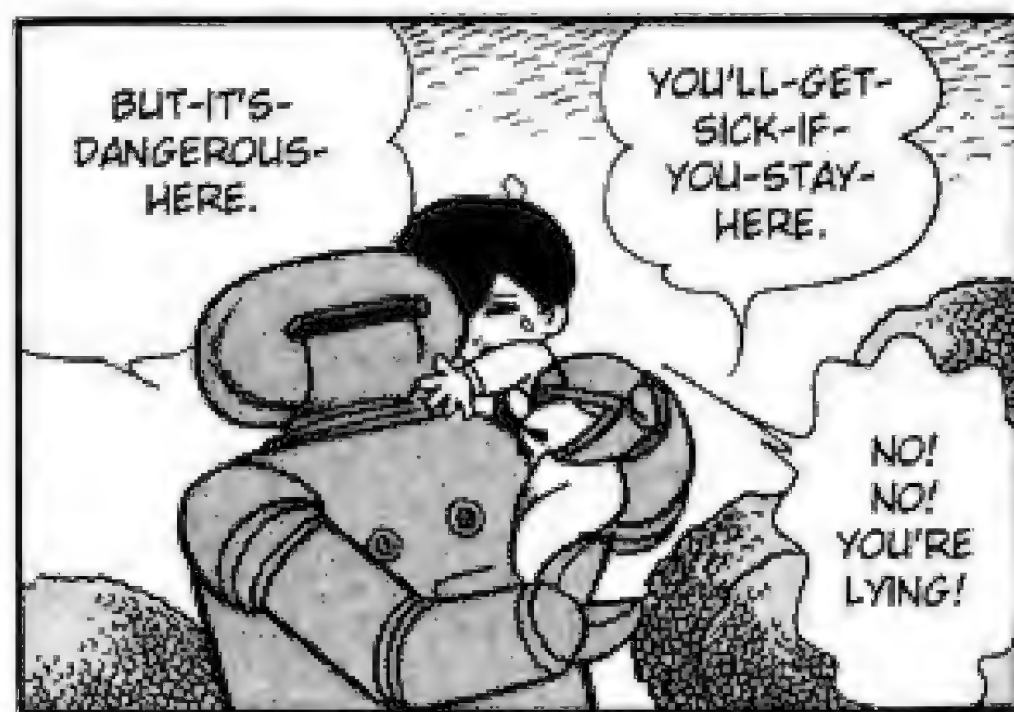
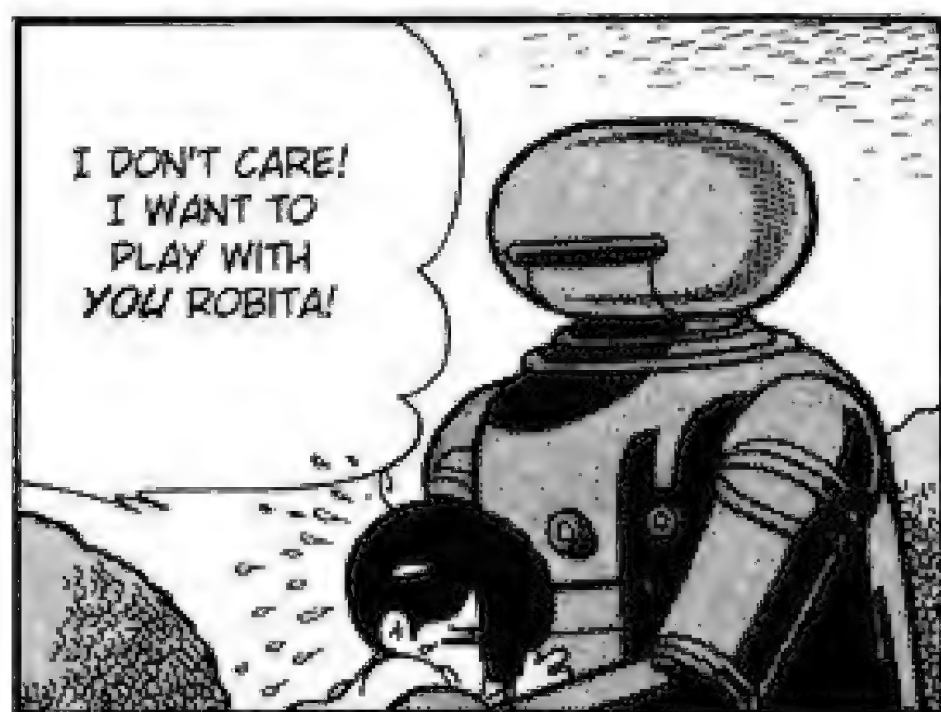


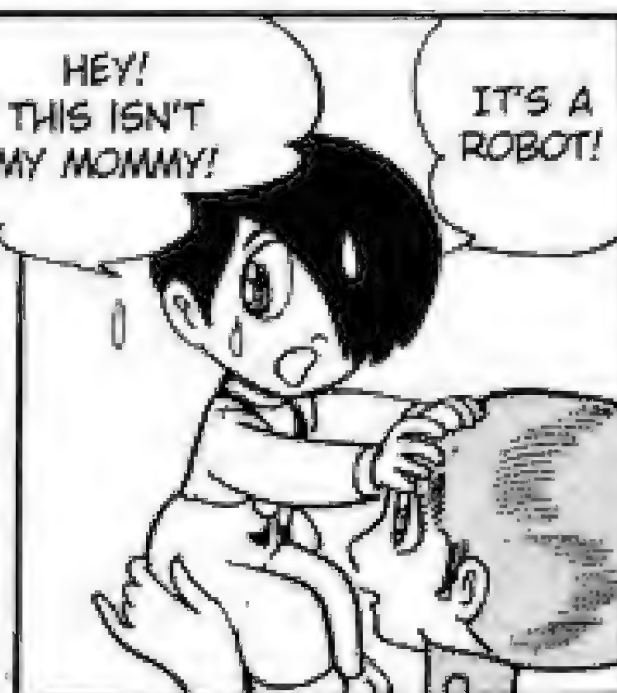
ROBITA!



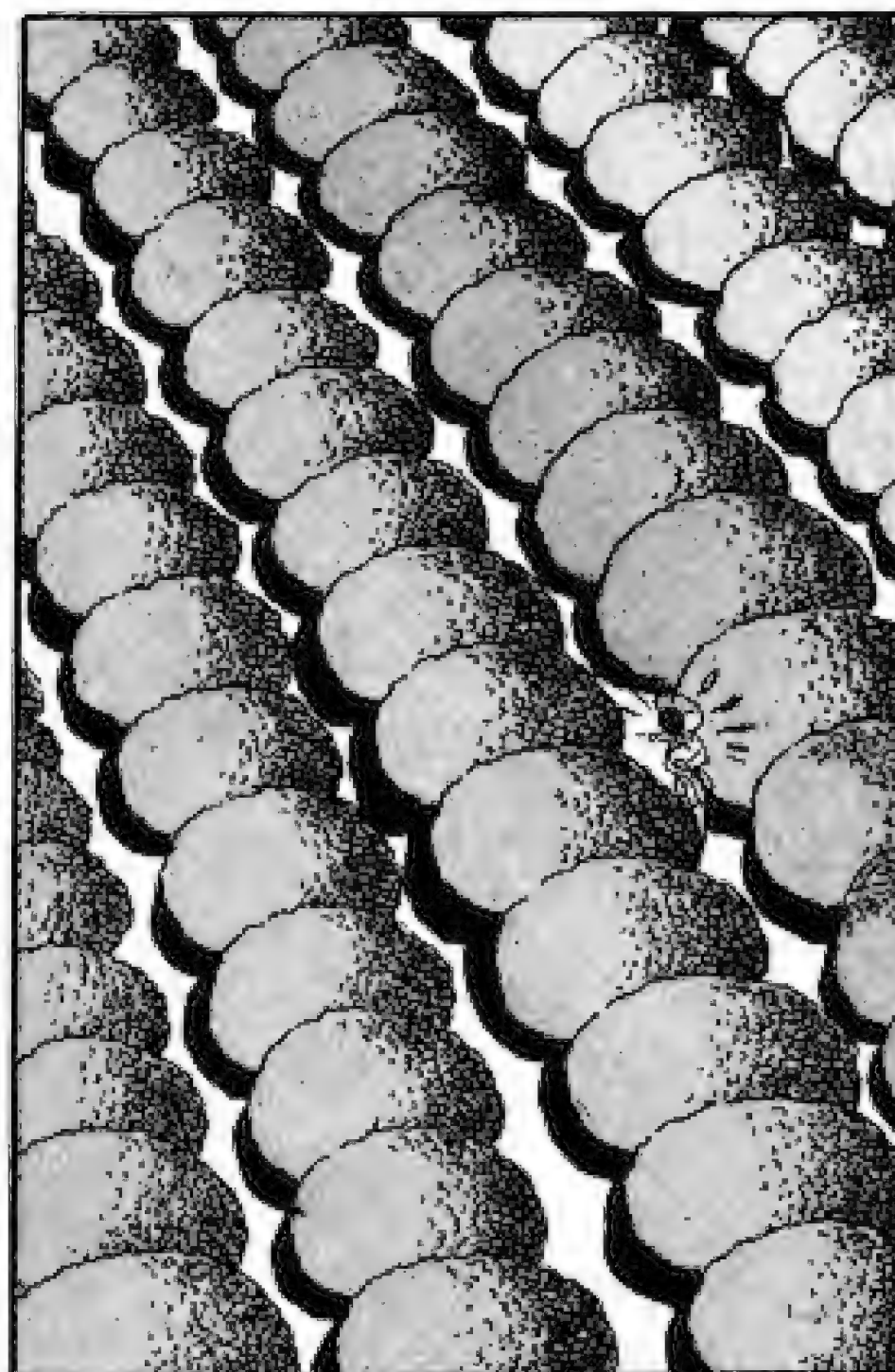
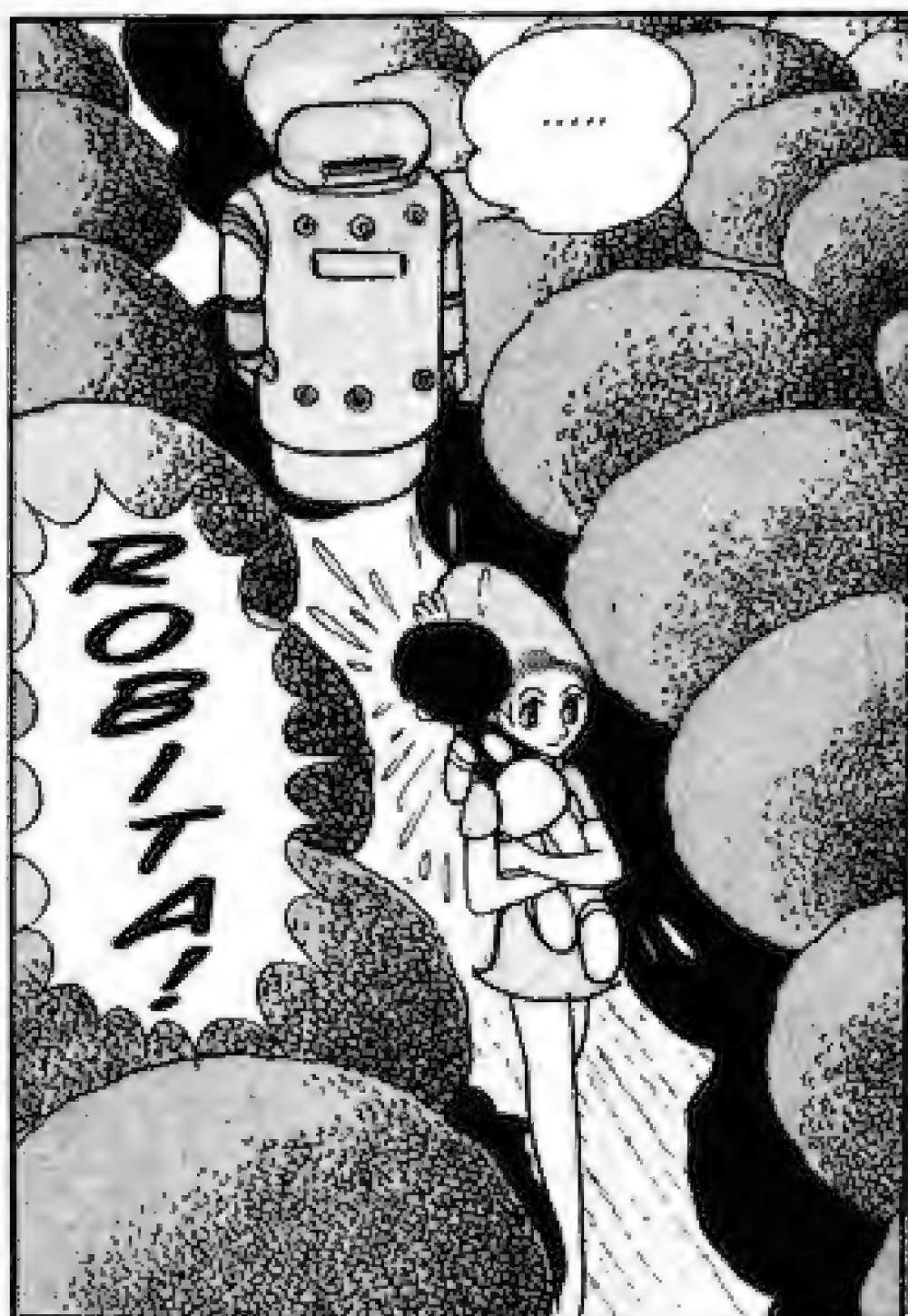
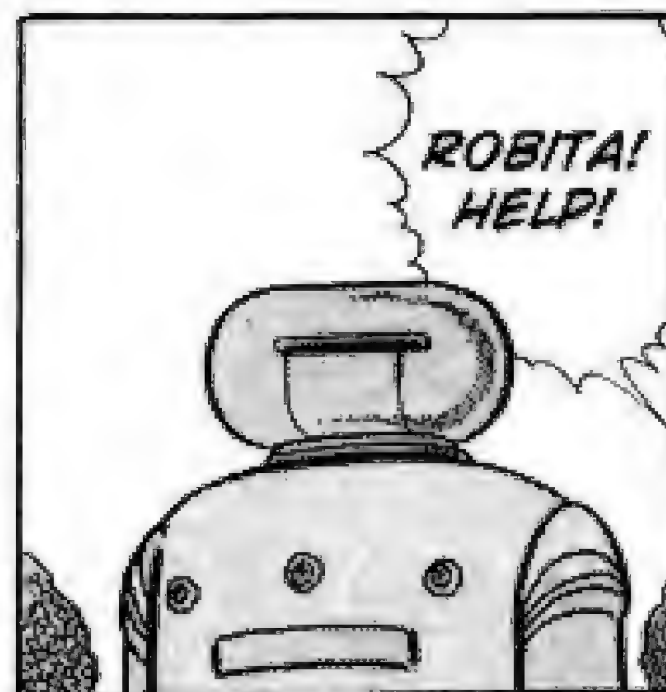
WHERE
ARE YOU,
ROBITA?!

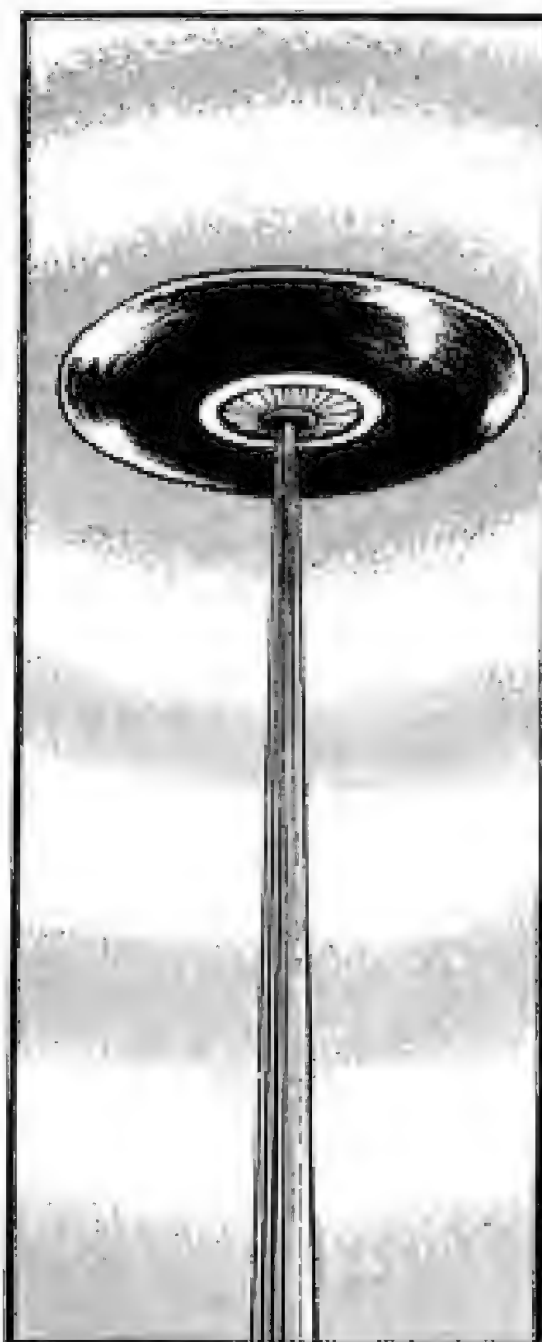






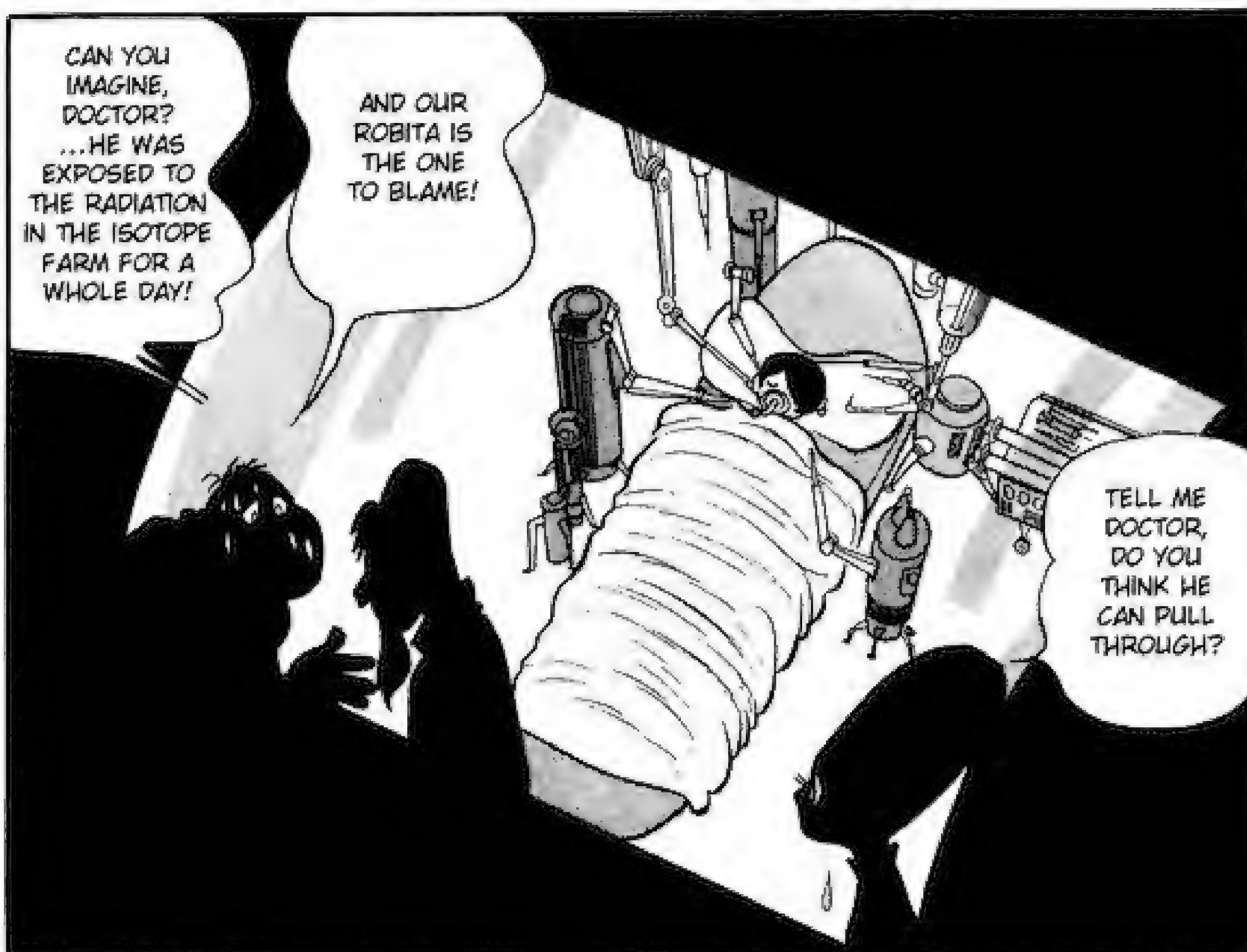
IT'S A ROBOT!







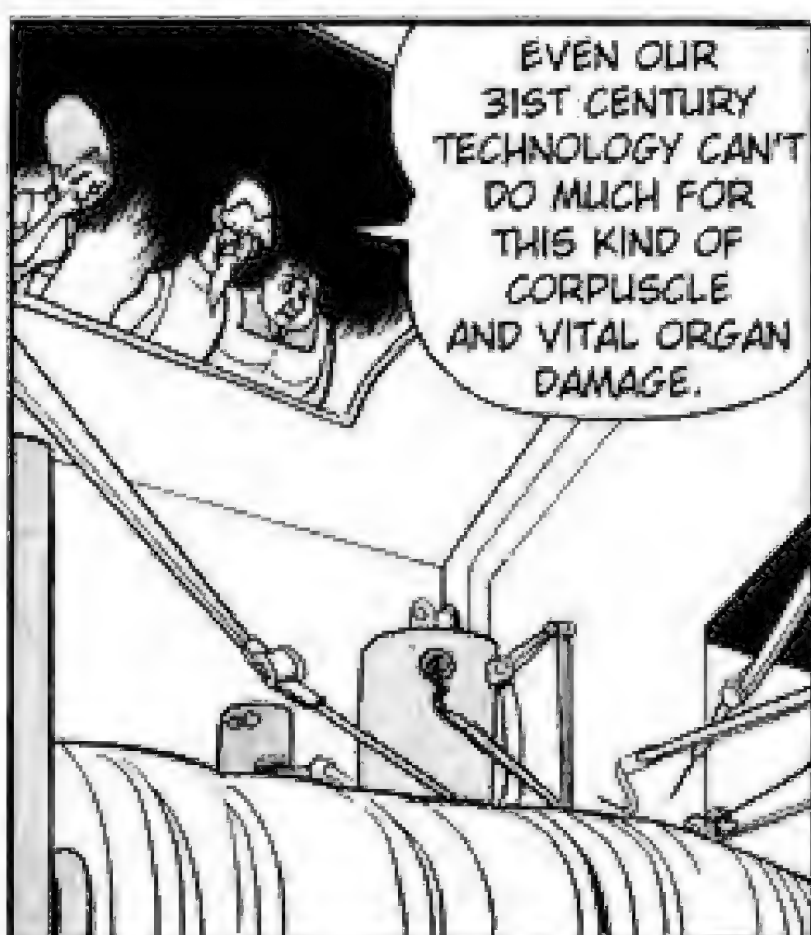
YUKIO!!



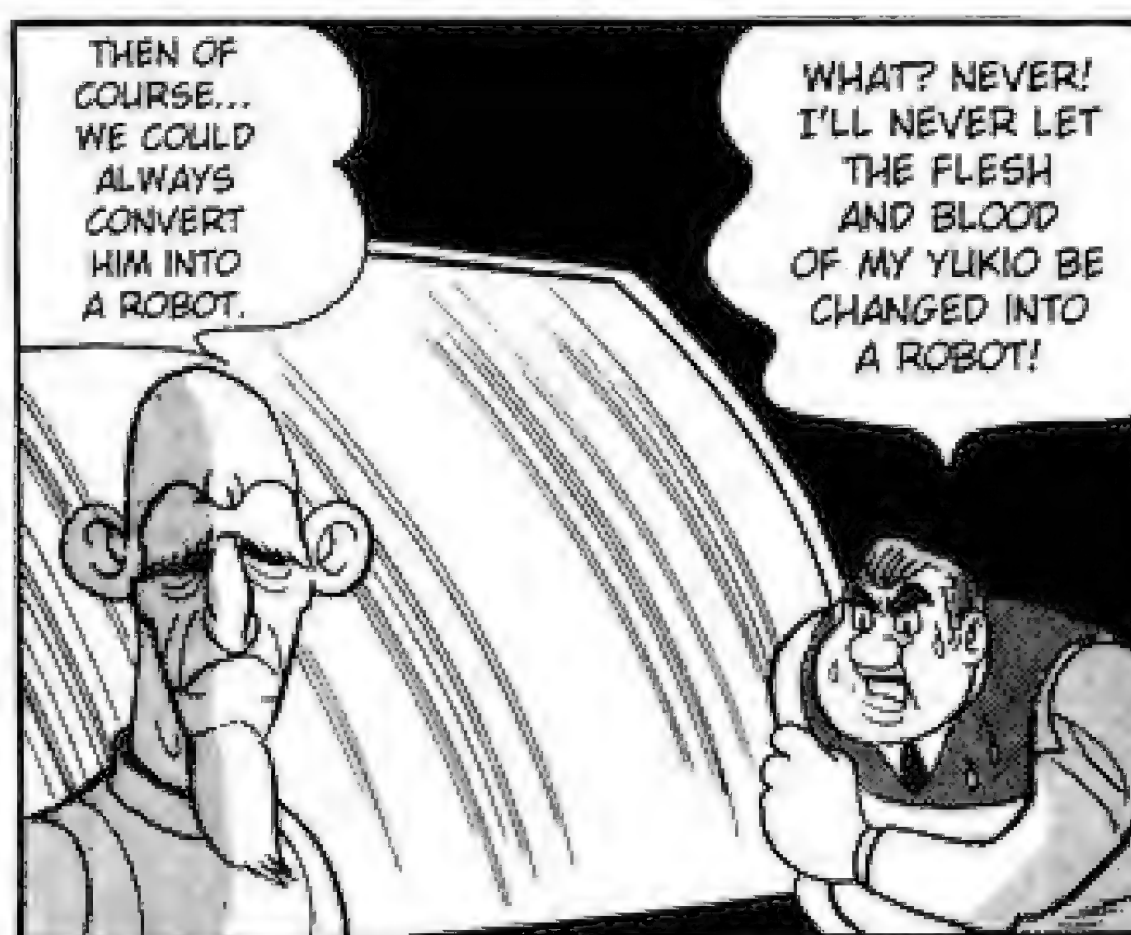
CAN YOU
IMAGINE,
DOCTOR?
...HE WAS
EXPOSED TO
THE RADIATION
IN THE ISOTOPE
FARM FOR A
WHOLE DAY!

AND OUR
ROBITA IS
THE ONE
TO BLAME!

TELL ME
DOCTOR,
DO YOU
THINK HE
CAN PULL
THROUGH?

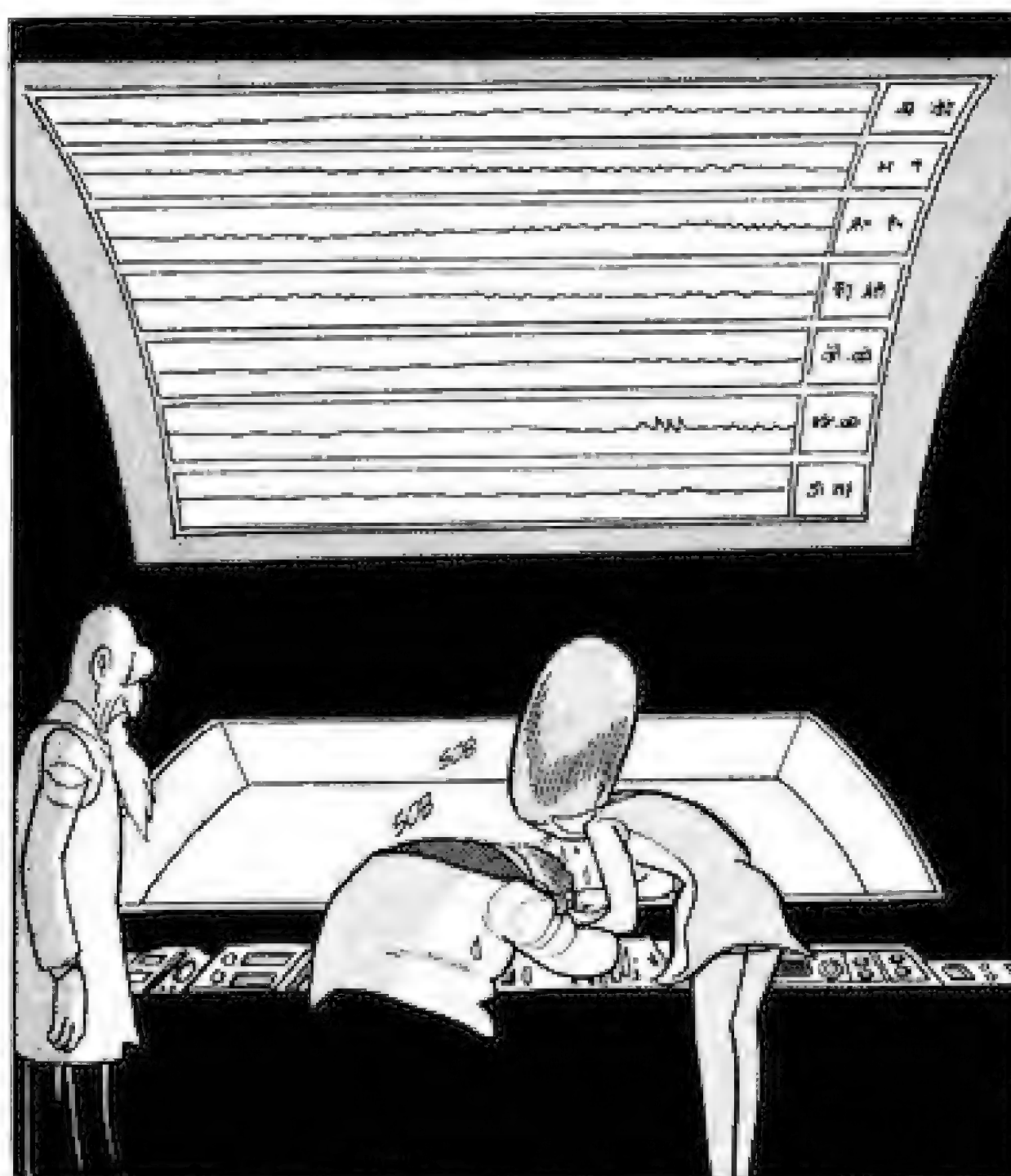
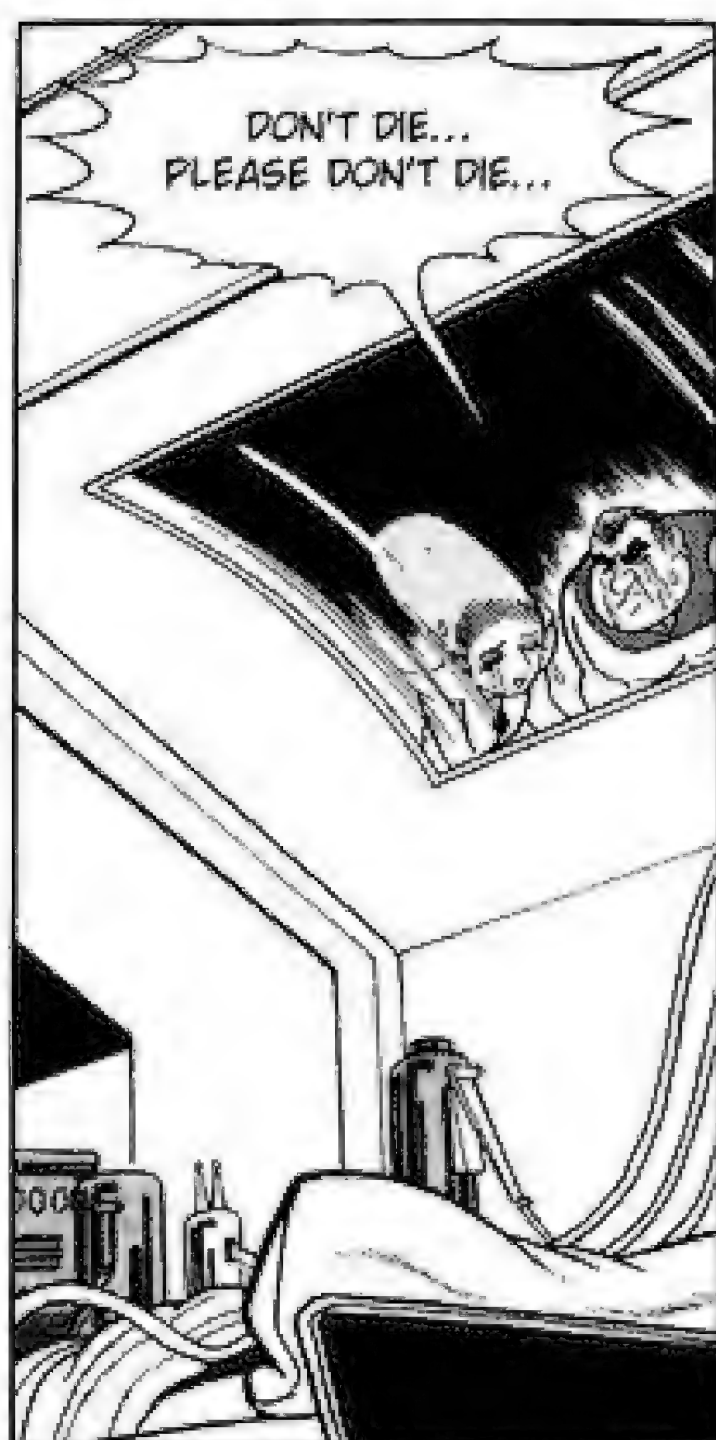
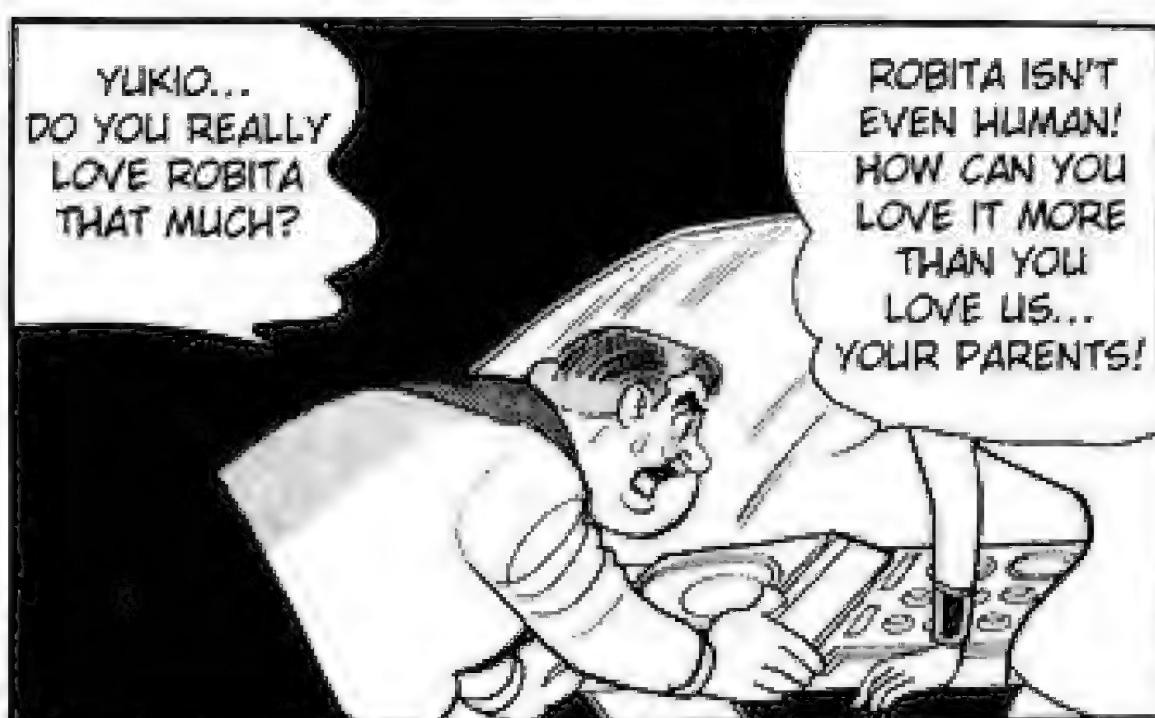


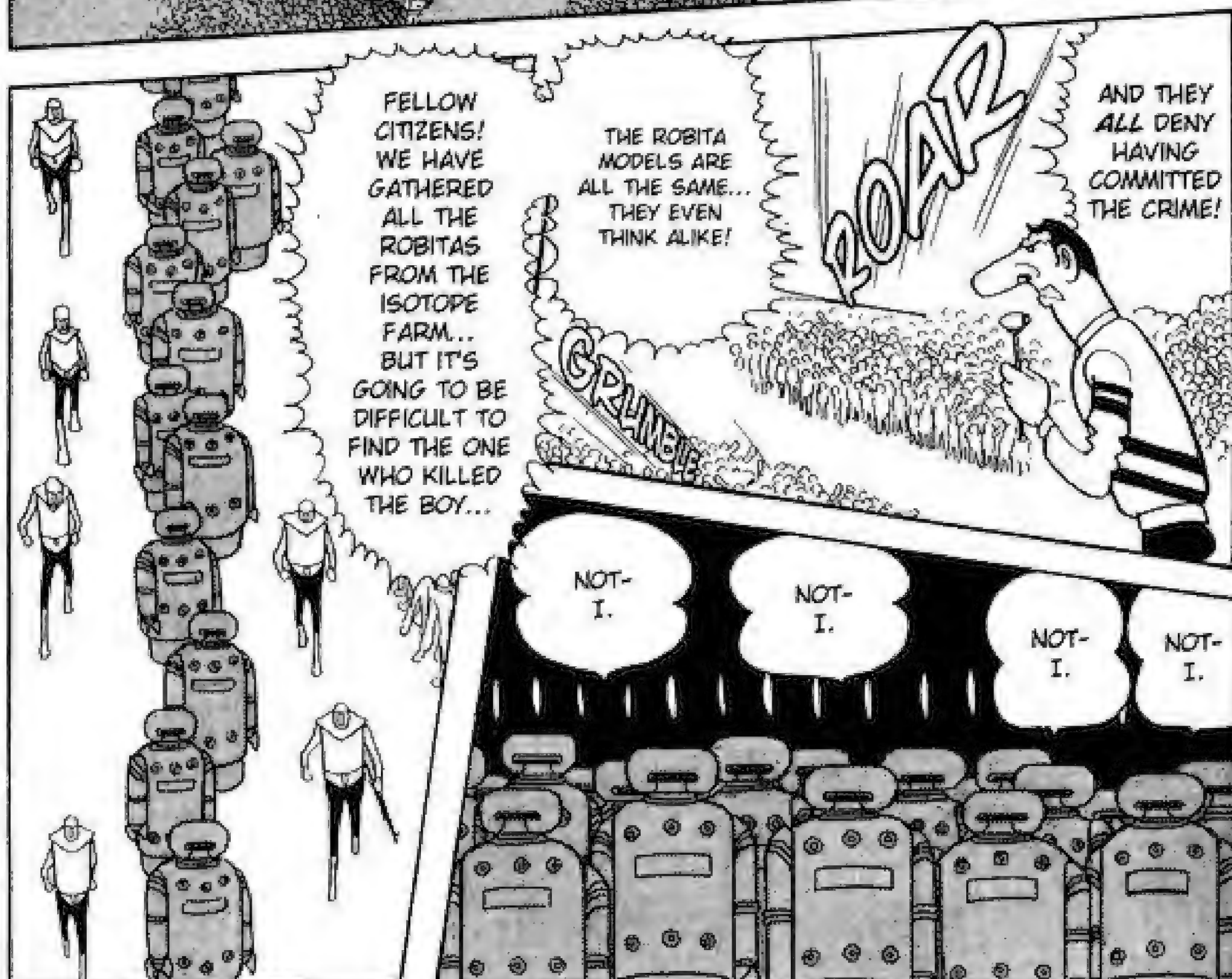
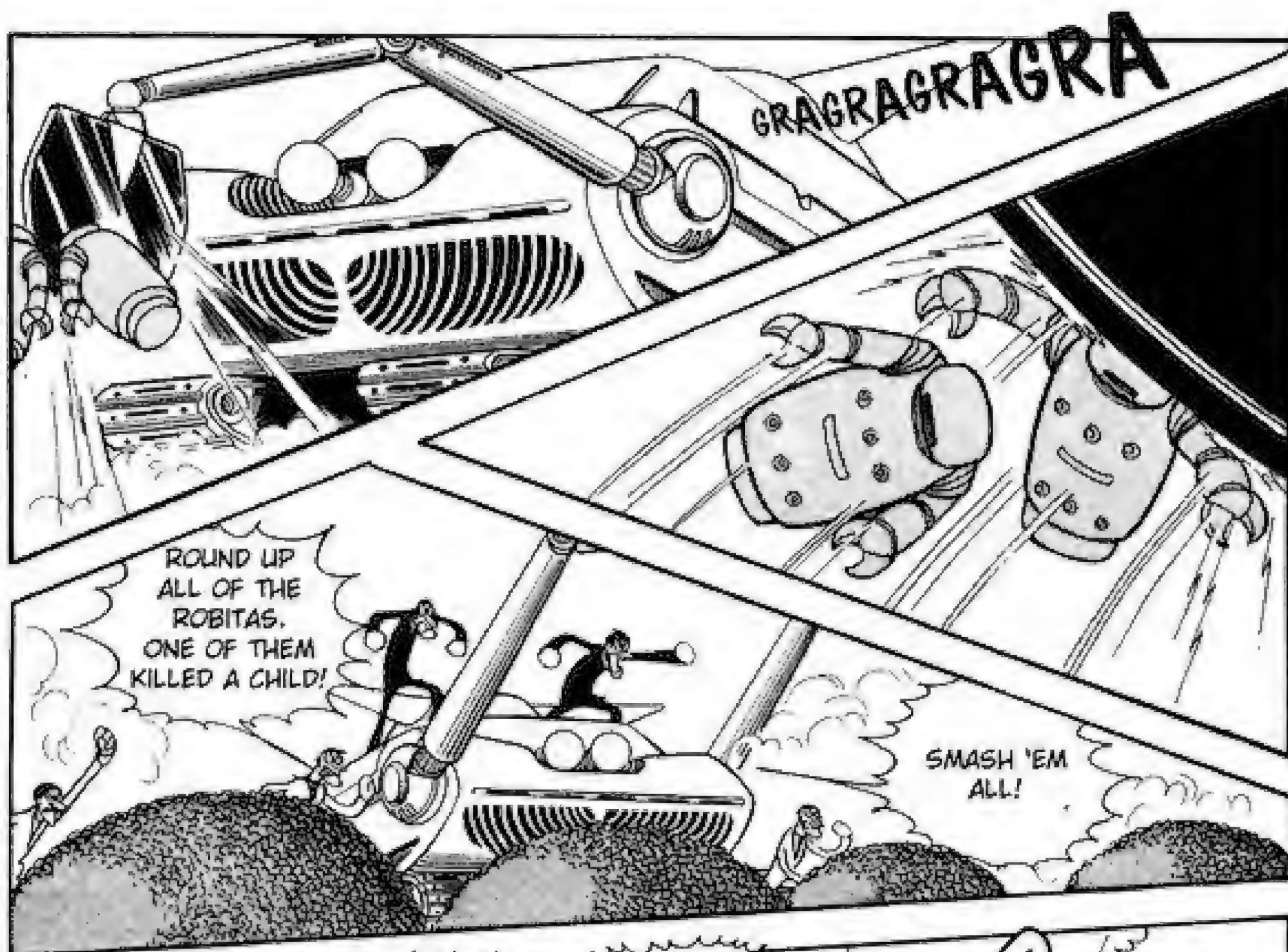
EVEN OUR
31ST CENTURY
TECHNOLOGY CAN'T
DO MUCH FOR
THIS KIND OF
CORPUSCLE
AND VITAL ORGAN
DAMAGE.



THEN OF
COURSE...
WE COULD
ALWAYS
CONVERT
HIM INTO
A ROBOT.

WHAT? NEVER!
I'LL NEVER LET
THE FLESH
AND BLOOD
OF MY YUKIO BE
CHANGED INTO
A ROBOT!





ONE OF YOU
ROBITAS LURED
YUKIO INTO THE
ISOTOPE FARM
AND PURPOSELY
HAD HIM PLAY IN
THE RADIOACTIVE
AREA!



NO—
THAT-IS-
INCOR-
RECT.

**SHUT
UP!**



IF WE CAN'T FIND
THE CULPRIT,
WE'LL KILL
ALL OF YOU!



BUT WE HAVE
NO EVIDENCE, SIR...
THIS IS GOING
TO BE A VERY
DIFFICULT CASE...

NOT AS
FAR AS I'M
CONCERNED.
I'M GOING TO
AVENGE YUKIO'S
DEATH, IF IT'S
THE LAST
THING I DO.

I'LL SHOW
THESE PILES
OF JUNK!



LOOK
HERE,
CHAPS...
I UNDER-
STAND
YOUR
DESIRE
TO COVER
FOR
YOUR-
SELVES...

BUT THE
FACT IS
ONLY ONE OF
YOU ENTICED
YUKIO INTO
THE ISOTOPE
FARM,
RIGHT?

IF YOU'LL
JUST TELL
ME WHO THAT
ONE ROBITA
WAS, I'LL LET
THE REST OF
YOU GO!



EVEN A COMPUTER
ANALYSIS OF THE
DATA COULD NOT
REVEAL THE TRUE
CRIMINALS IDENTITY...

BUT THE LAW
CANNOT BE
DEFIED!
WE MUST FIND
THE CRIMINAL
ROBITA AND
PROSECUTE IT!

HOWEVER...
IF THE VICTIM
IS FOUND TO
HAVE ENTERED
THE ISOTOPE
FARM OF HIS
OWN FREE
WILL...

THIS WOULD
THEN BE A CASE
OF ACCIDENTAL
DEATH, AND THE
CHARGE AGAINST
THE ROBITA
WOULD HAVE
TO BE
DISMISSED.

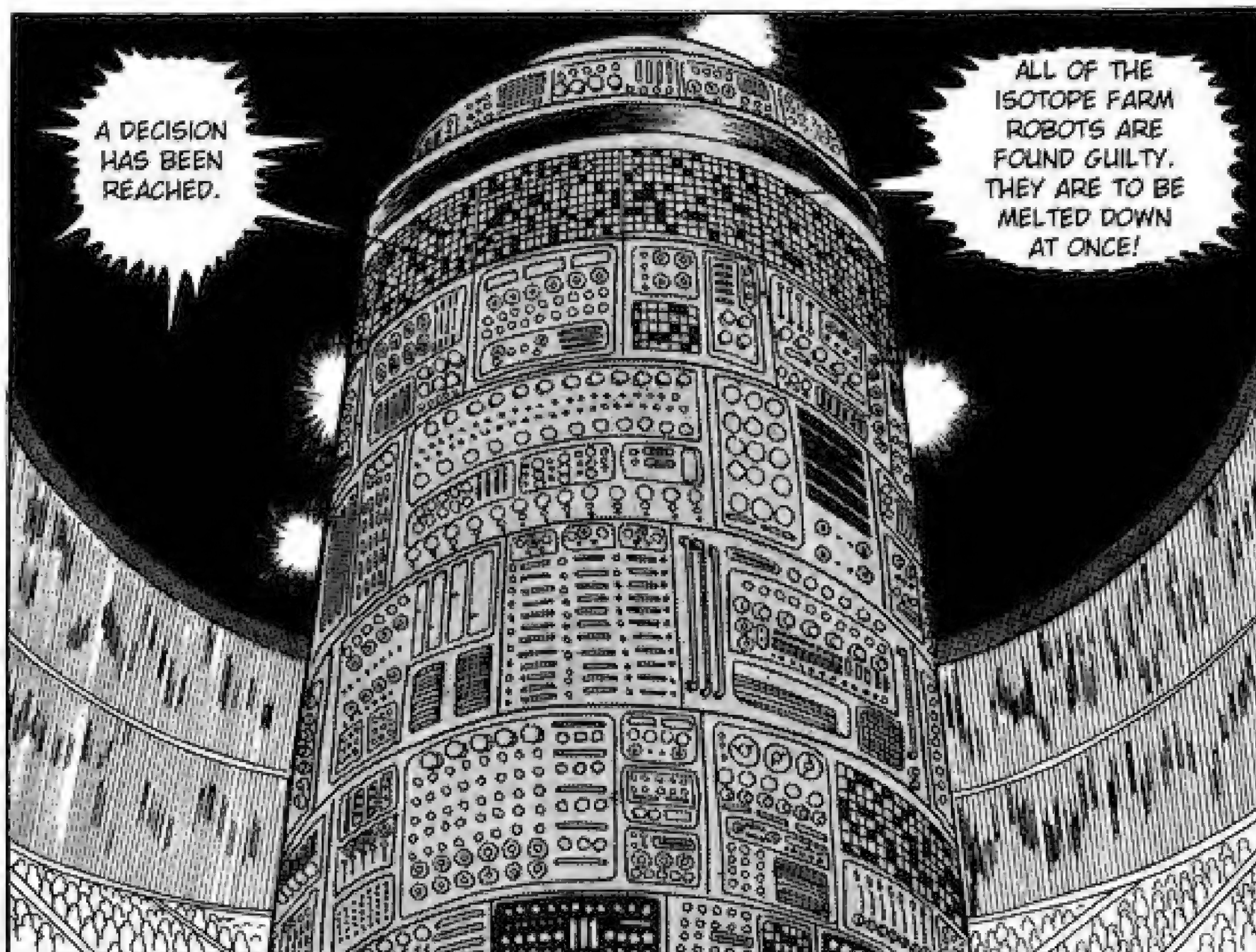
THE CASE
BECAME
MORE AND
MORE
COMPLEX.

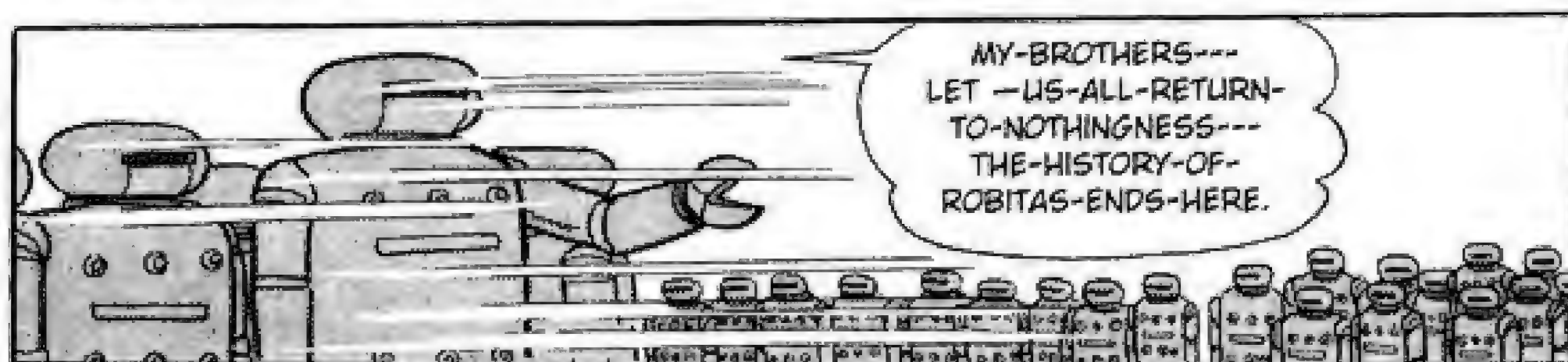
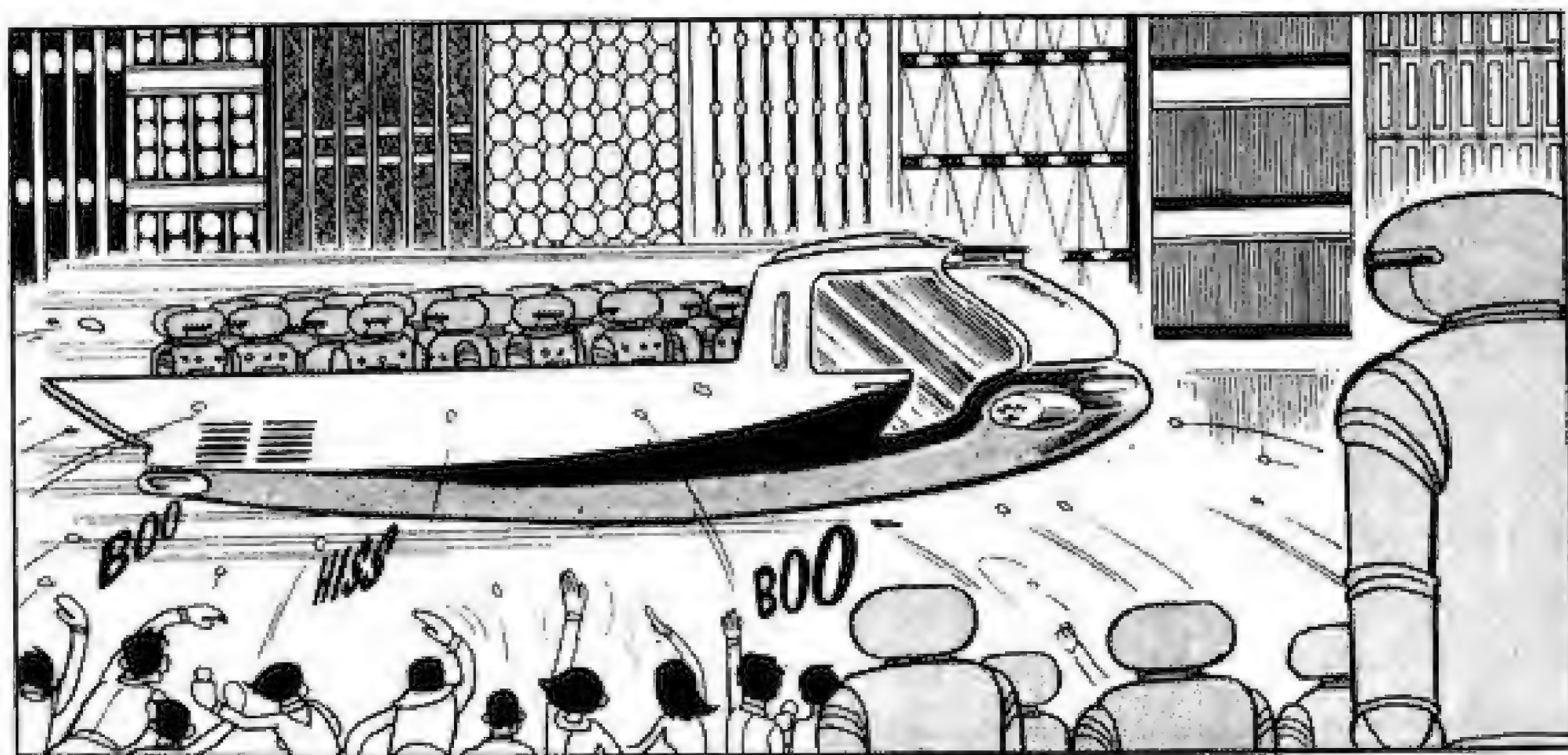
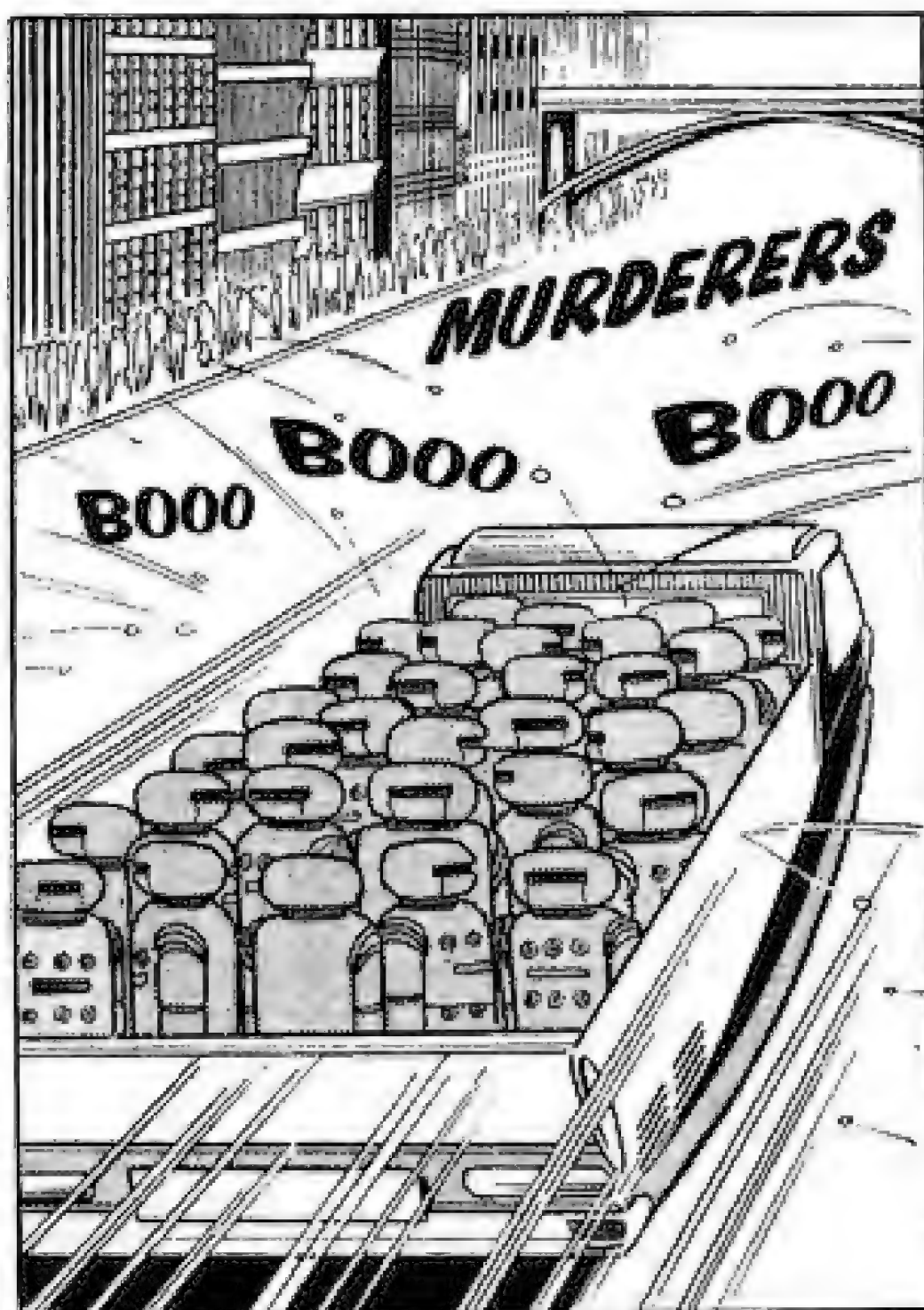
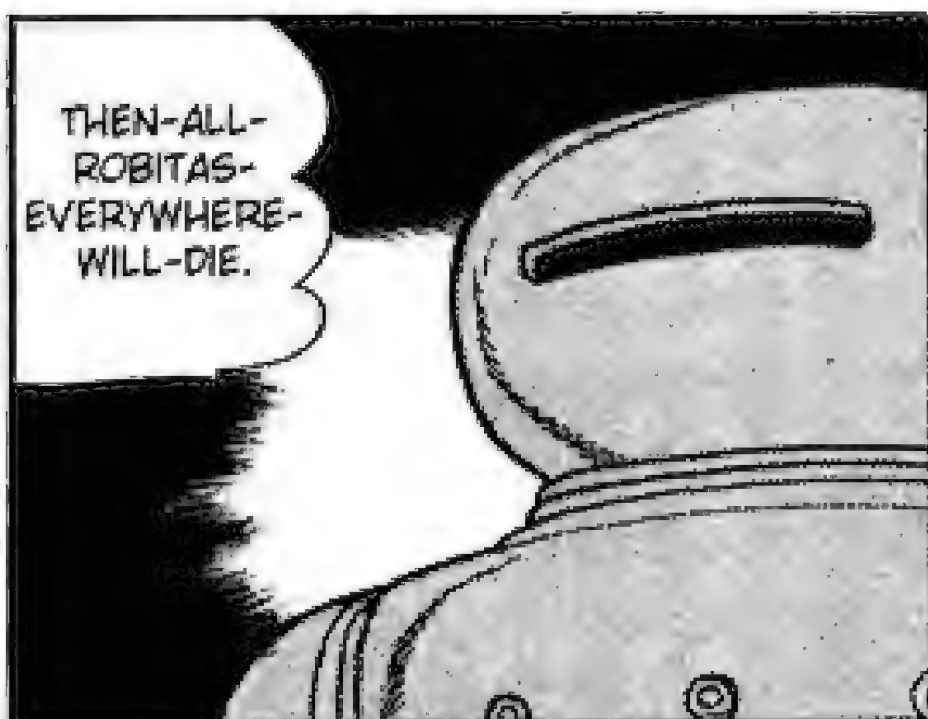
THE TRIAL
CONTINUED
FOR FIVE
YEARS...
THEN 10...

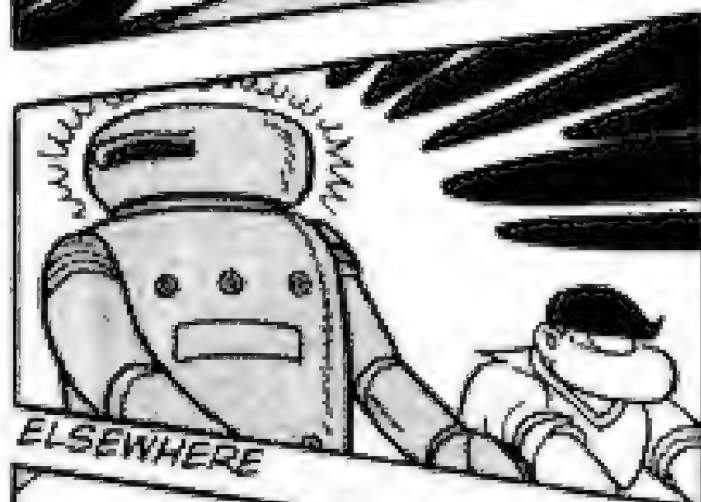
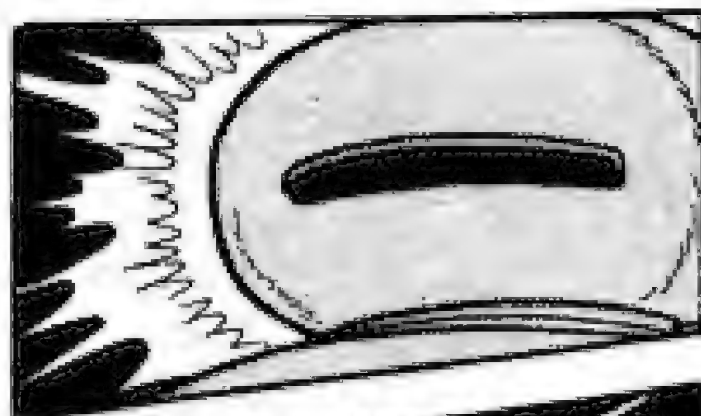
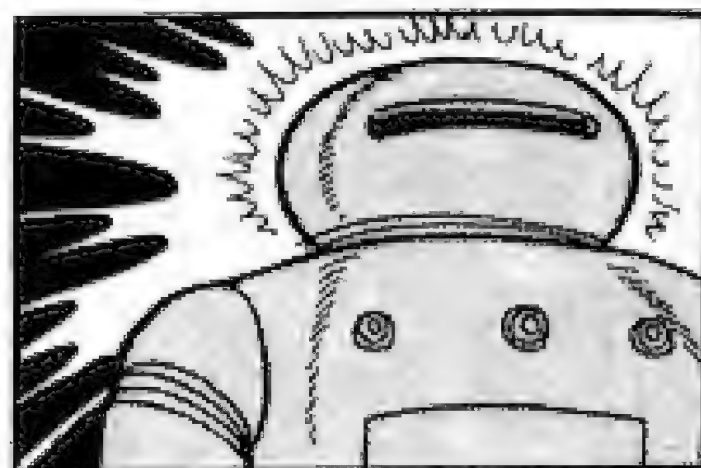
NO!
THAT
CAN'T
BE
TRUE!

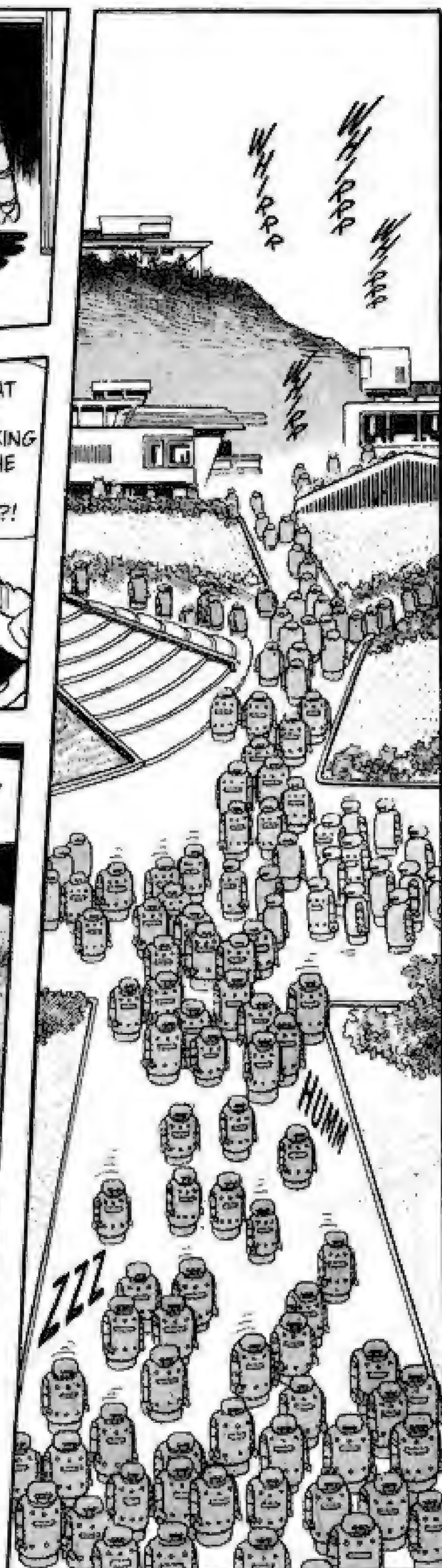
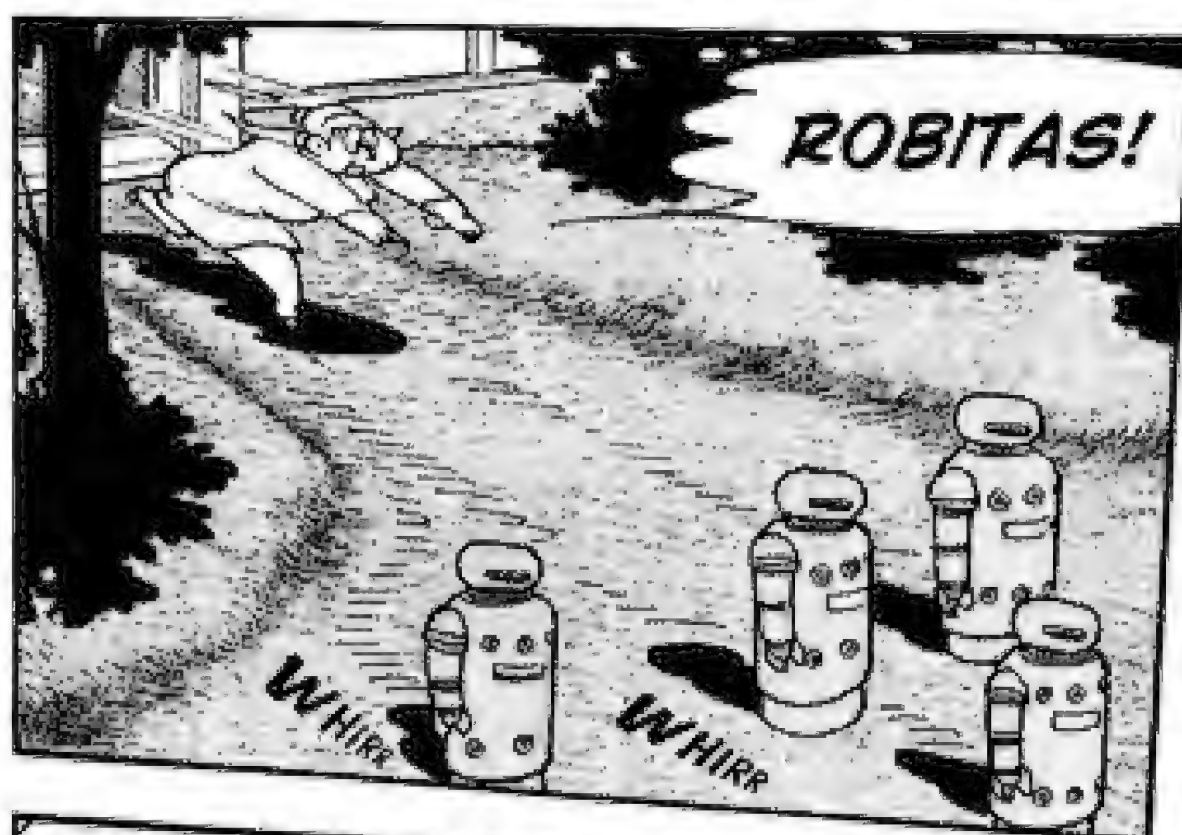
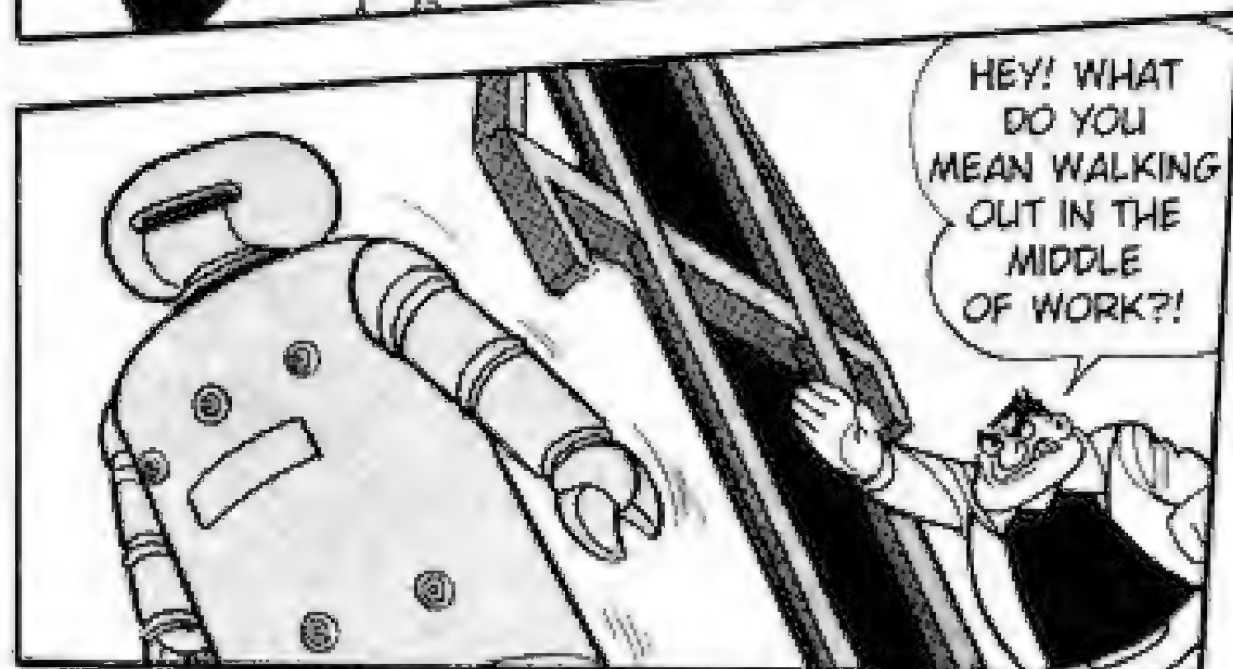
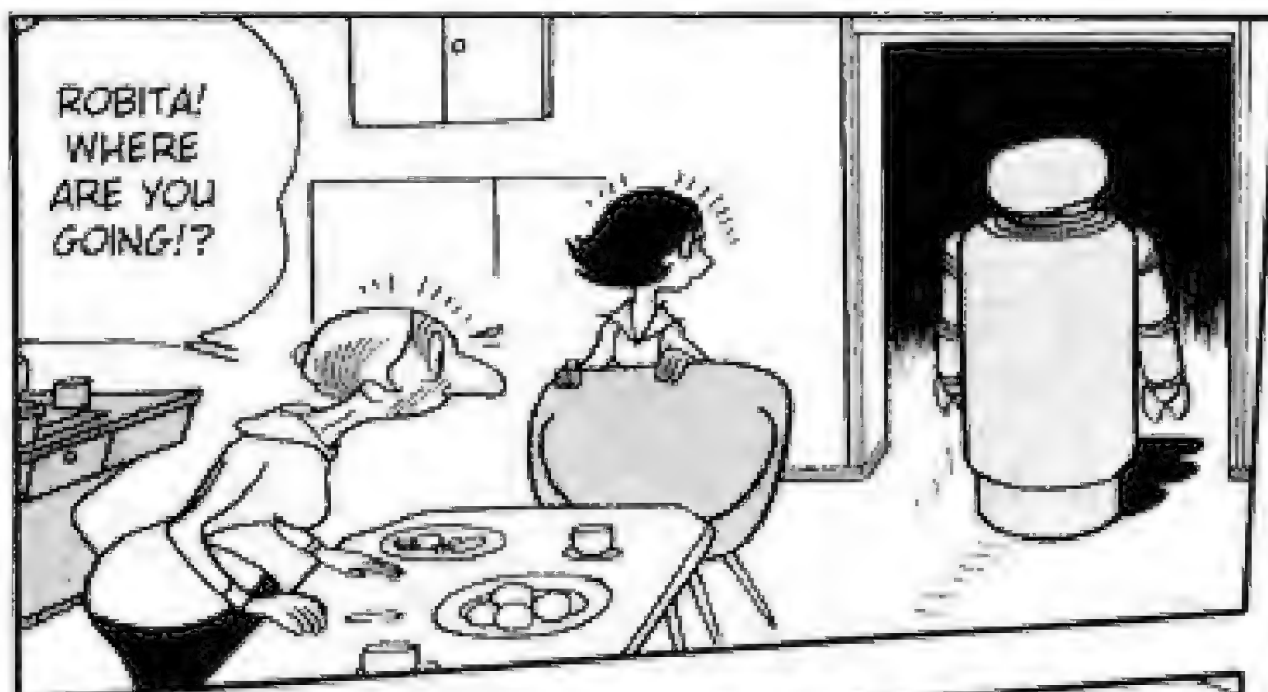
30
3019
3020

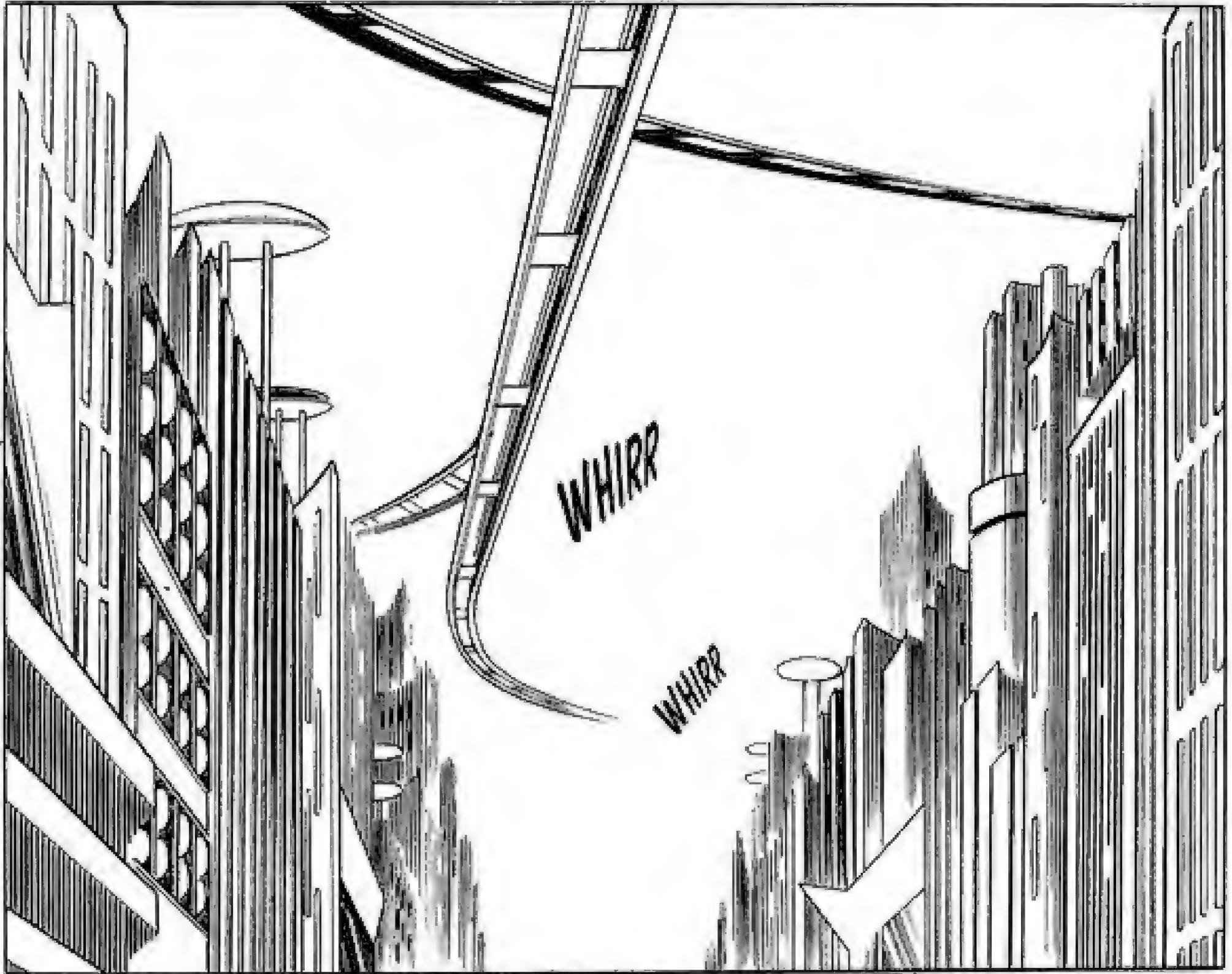
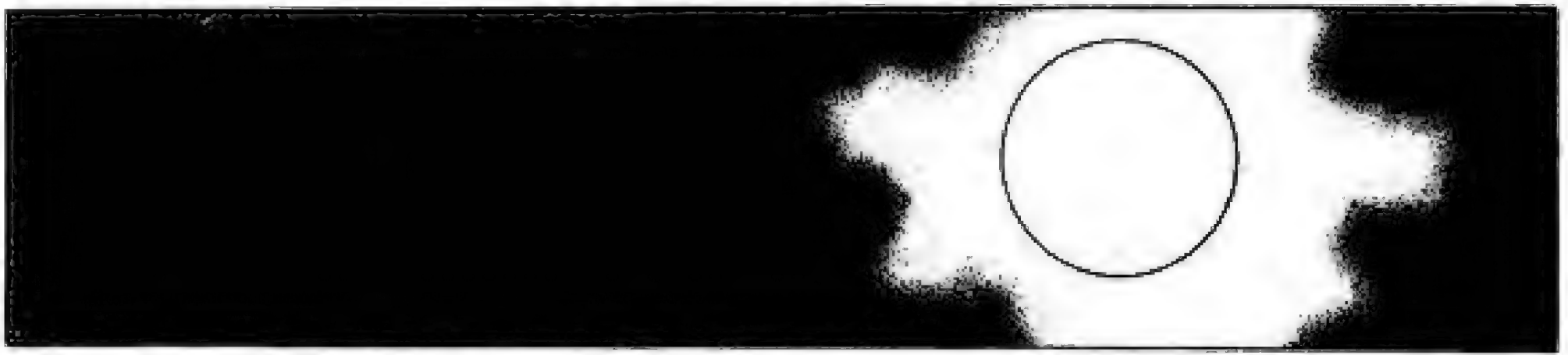
3030

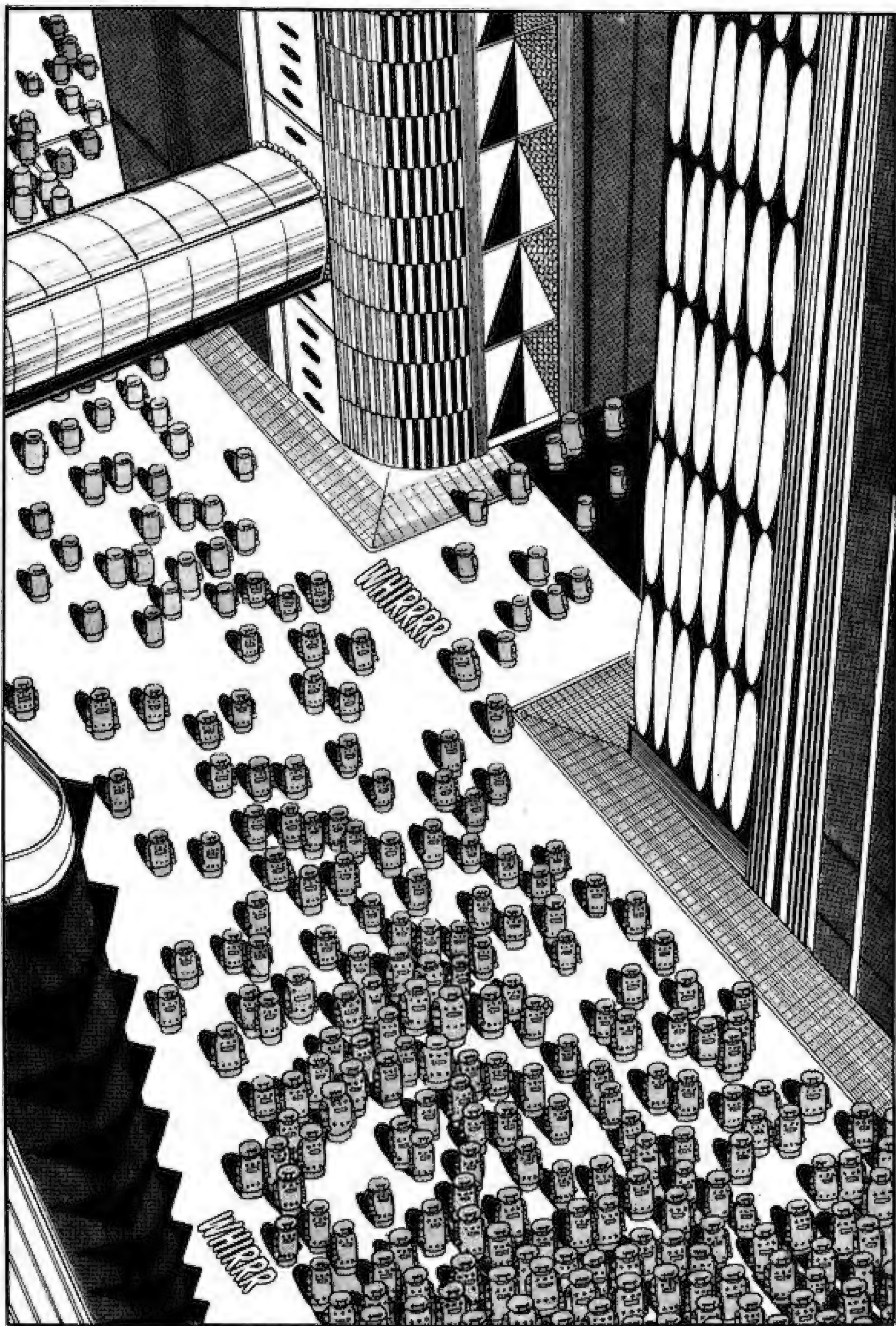


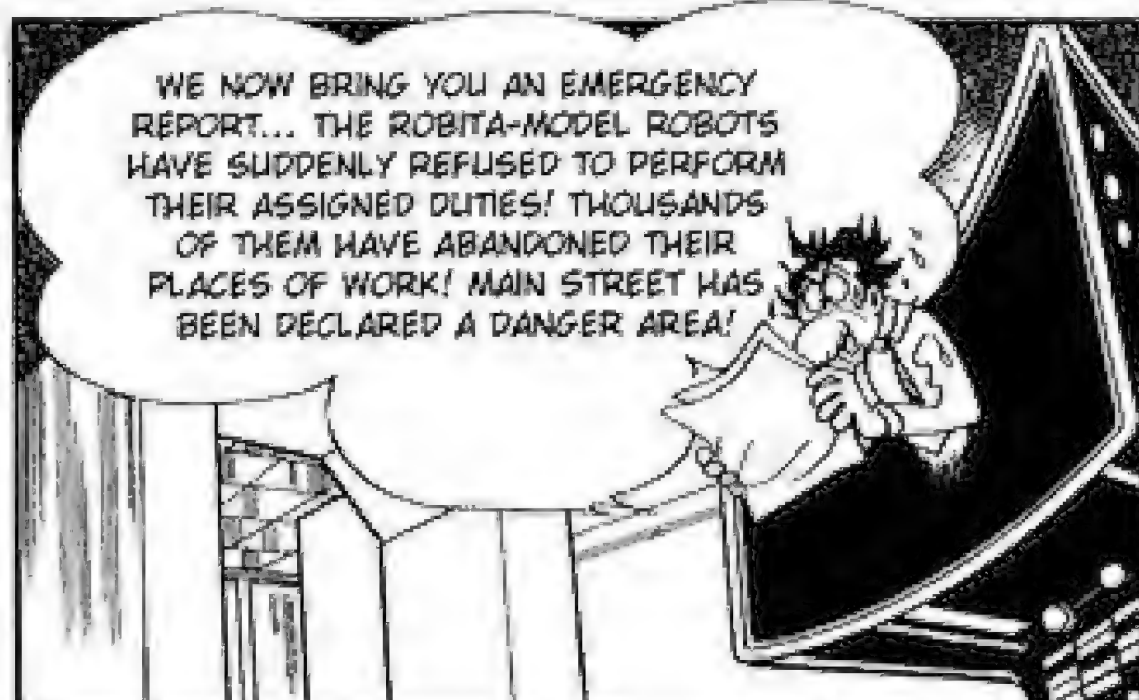


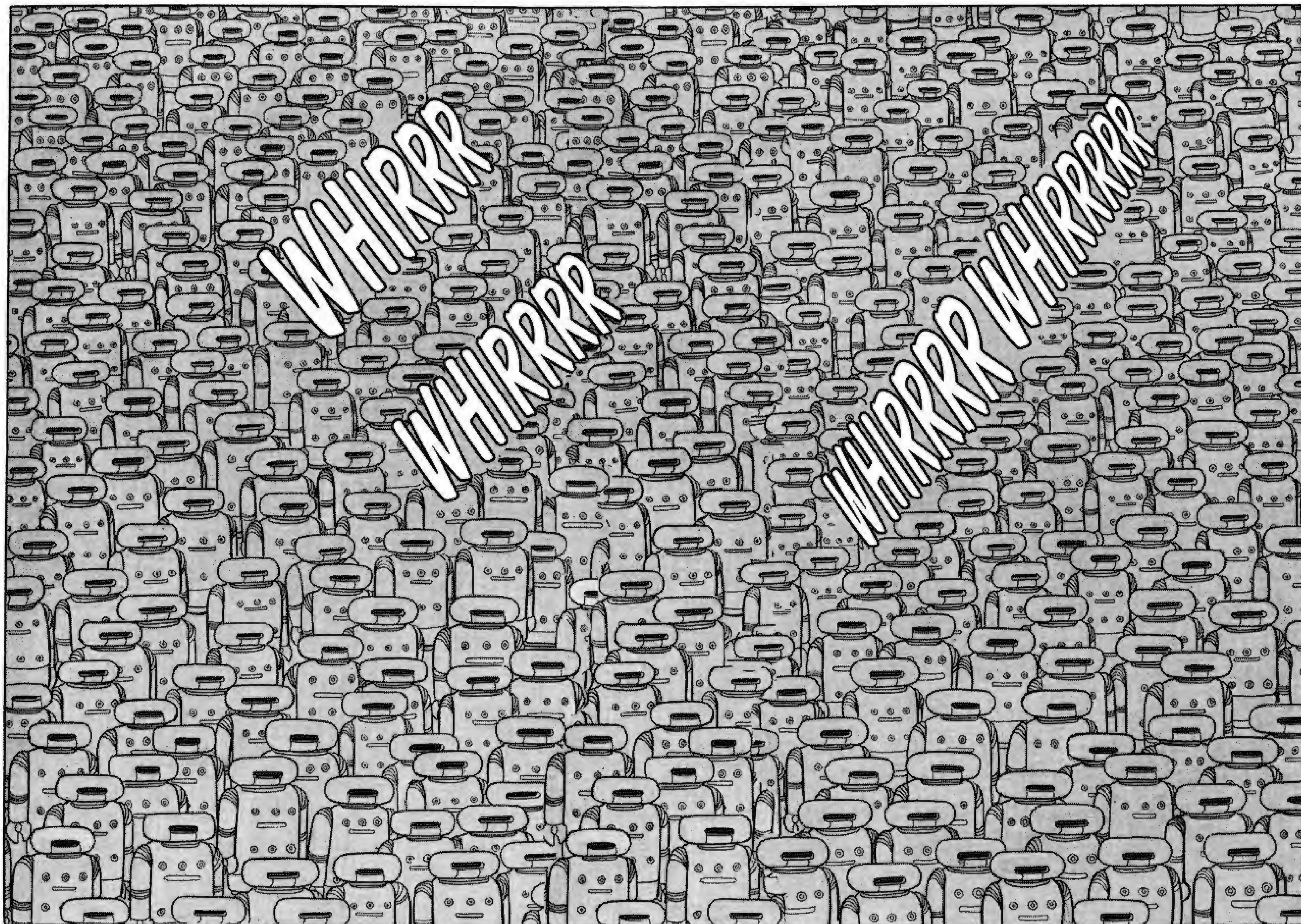


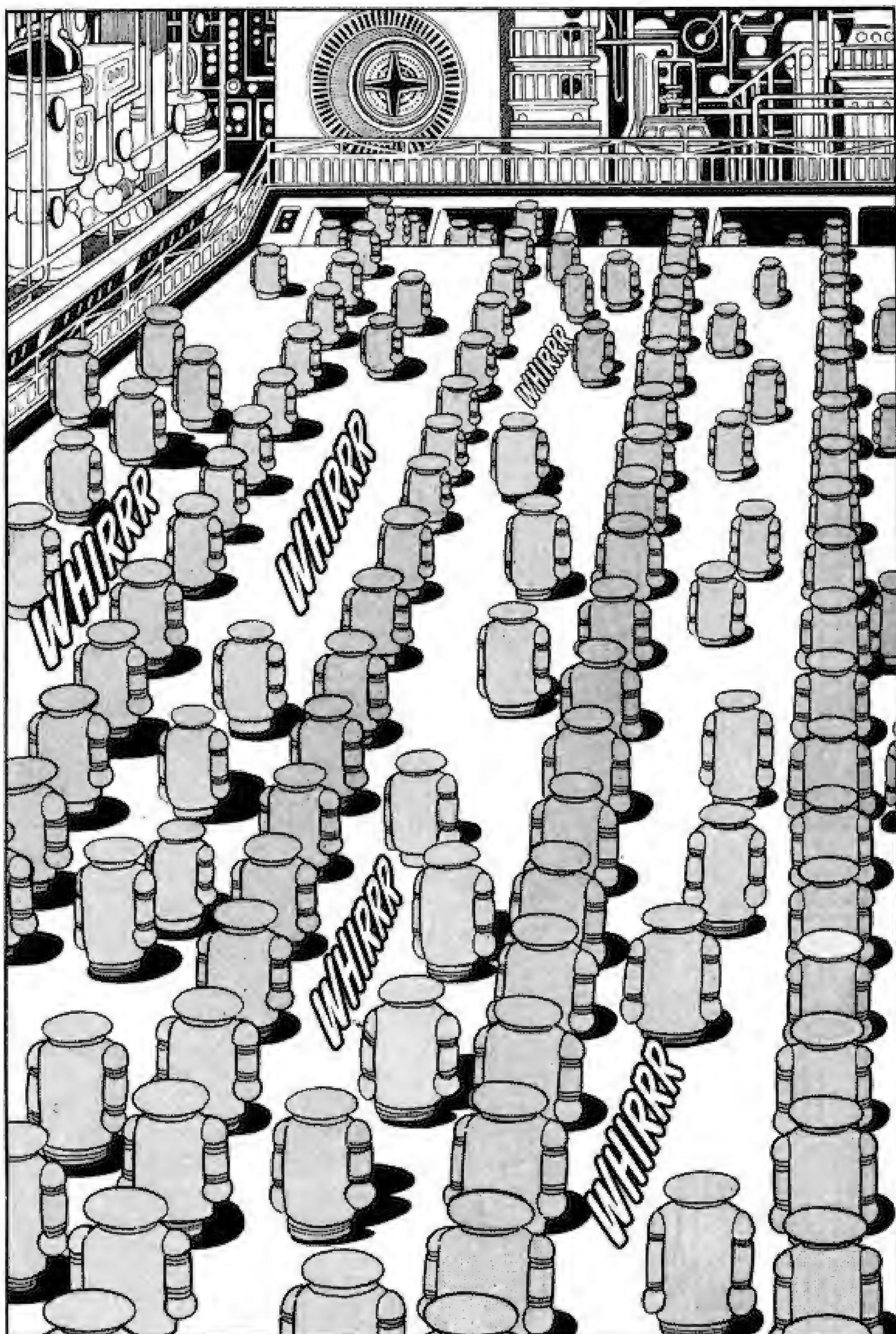


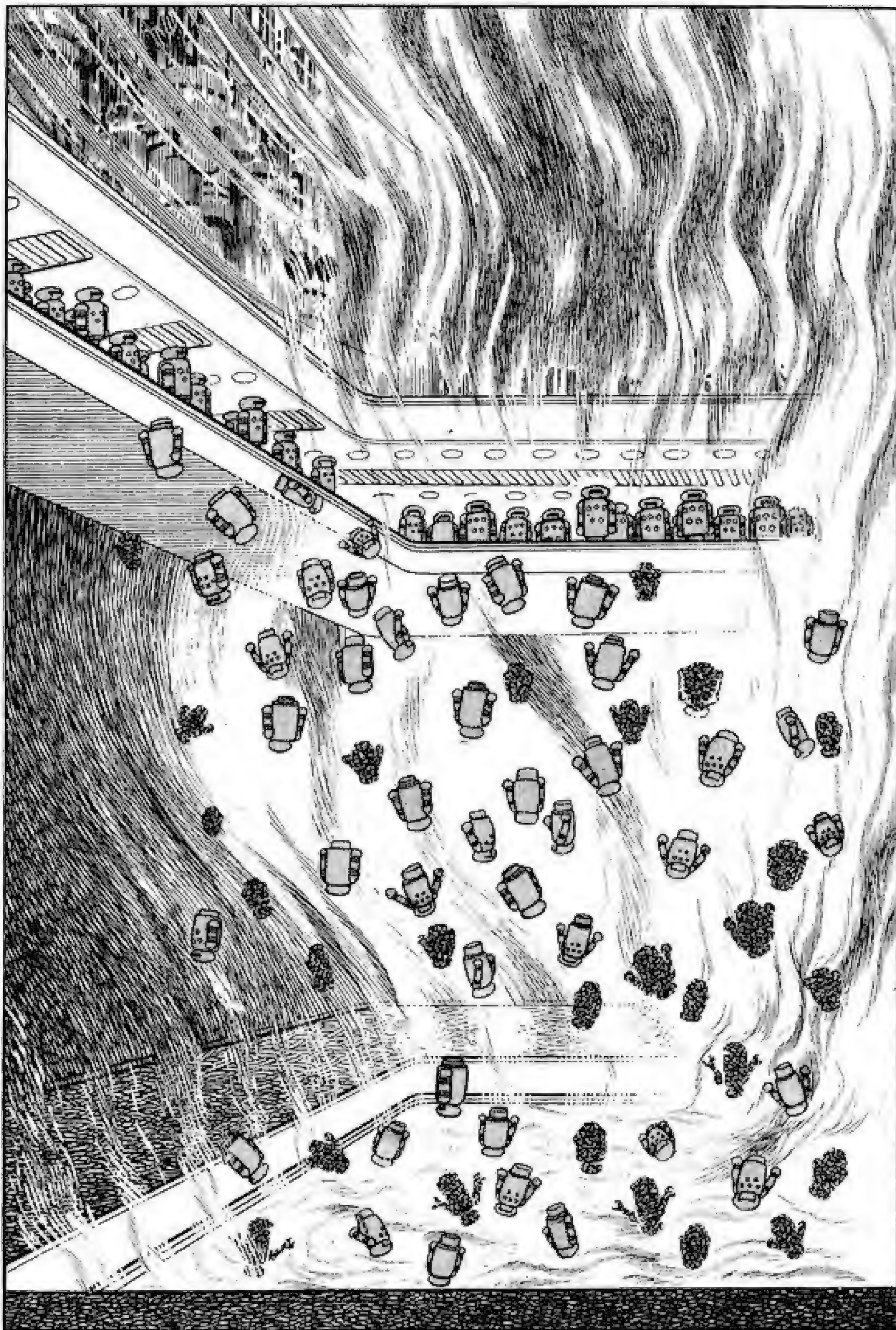






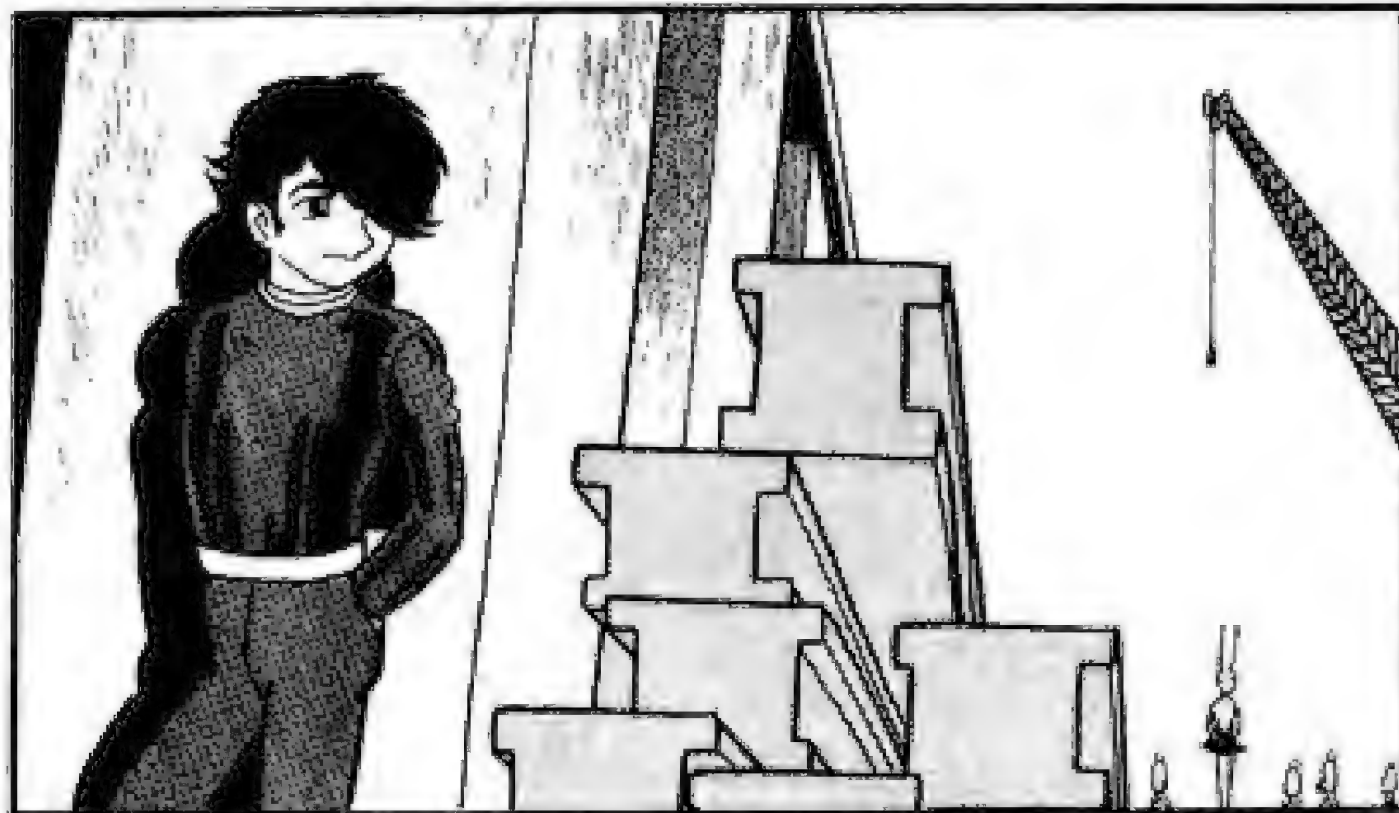
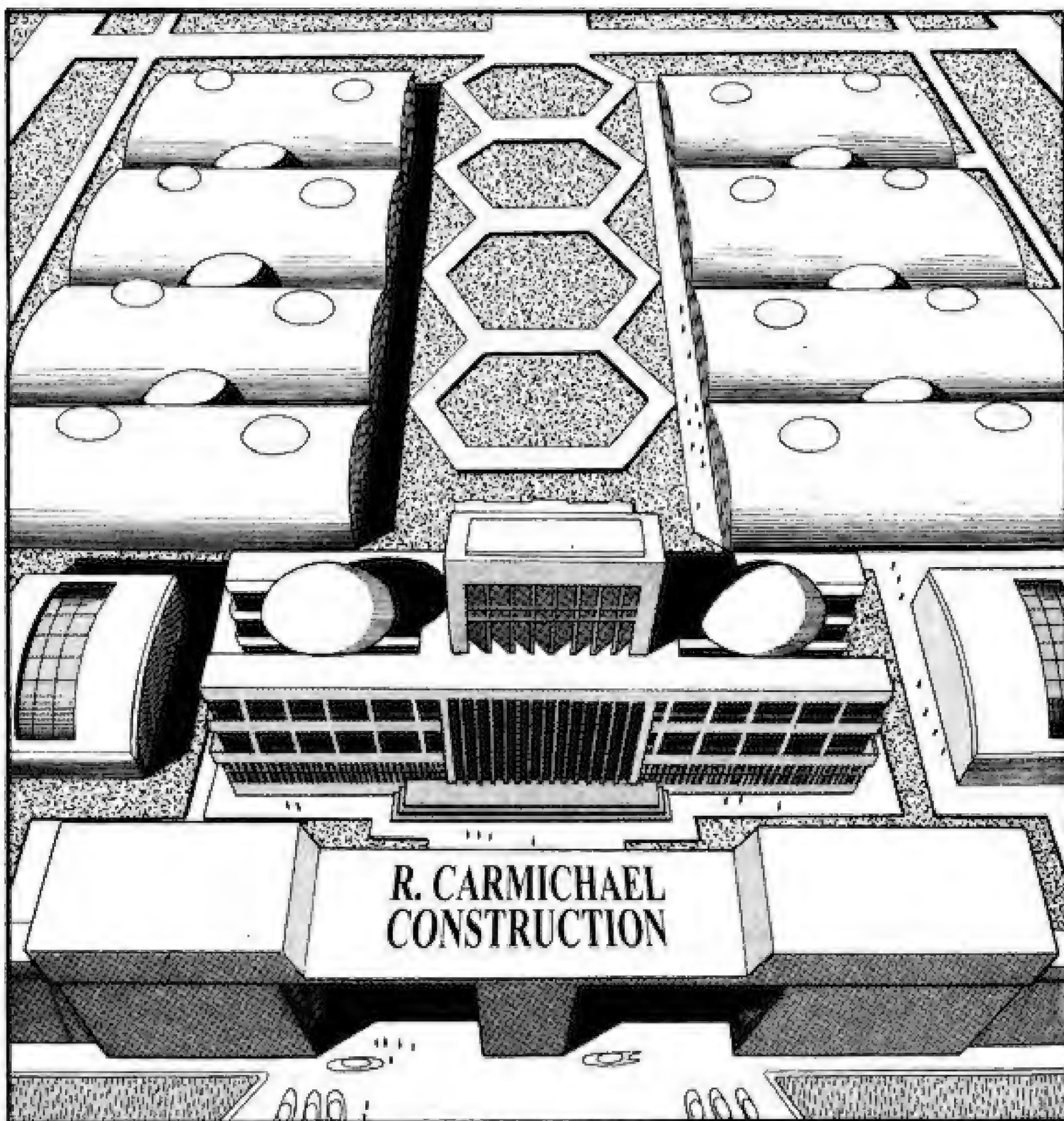


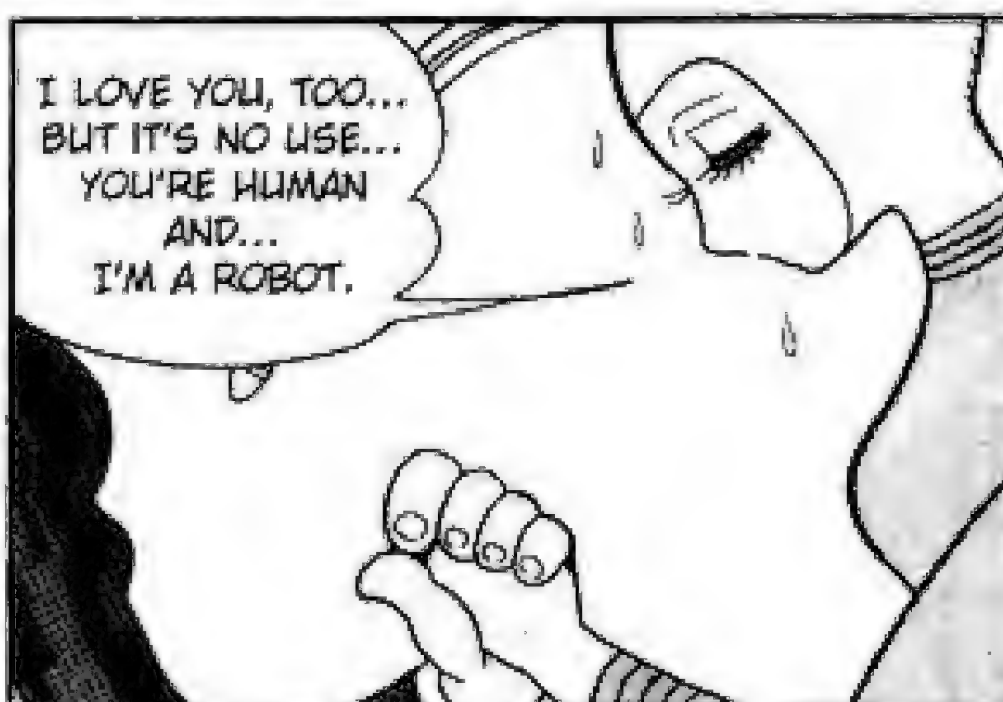






AD 2484









CHIIHIRO!

WHO'S THAT
MAN YOU'RE
TALKING TO?!



LOOK,
WHOEVER
YOU ARE,
WHY DON'T
YOU QUIT
PESTERING
OUR
ROBOT!

LET'S GO
CHIIHIRO!
IT'S TIME
TO GO
BACK TO
WORK...



SHE'S NOT
GOING BACK
TO WORK
FOR YOU!

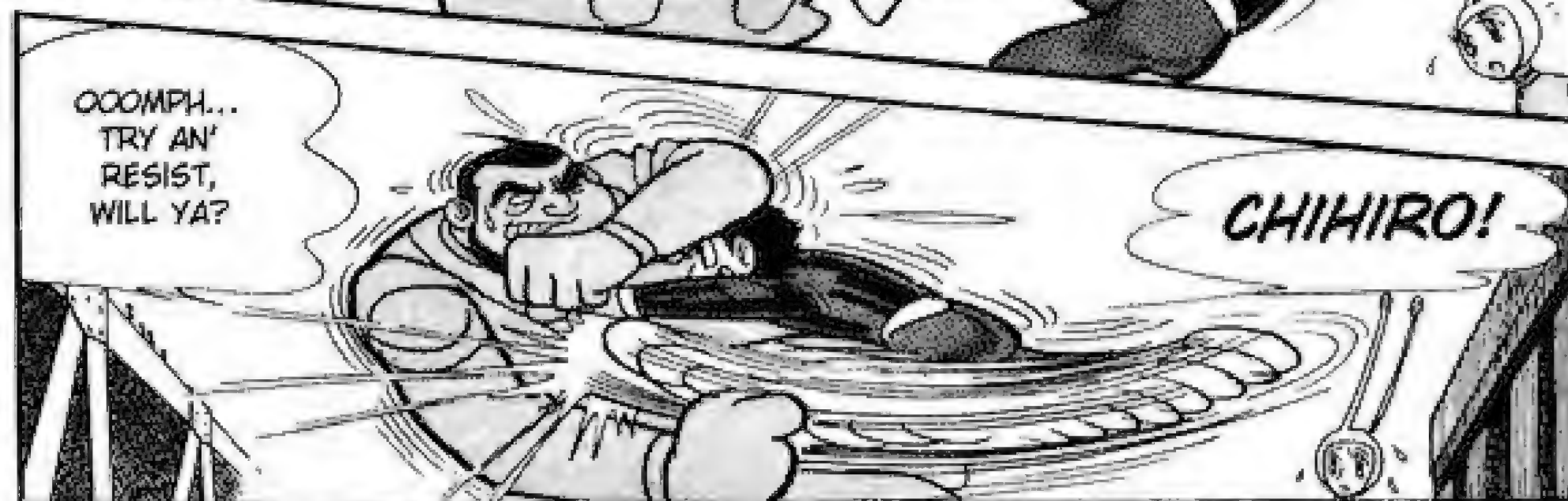
WHAT?

...WHY,
YOU'RE THE
LUNATIC
WHO STARTED
YELLING AND
SCREAMING IN
THE COMPANY
PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE...



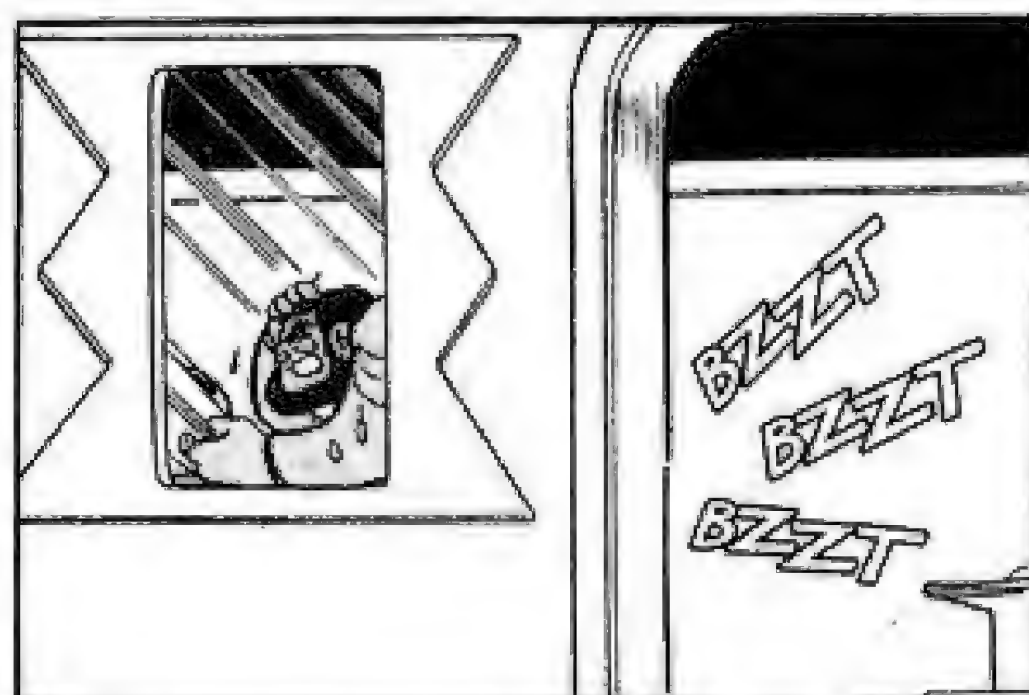
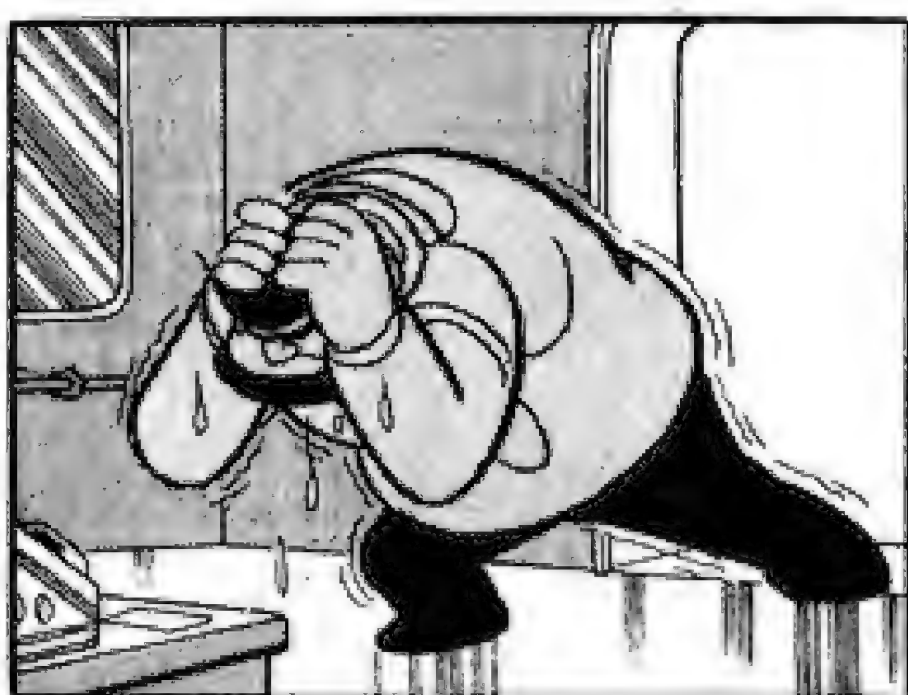
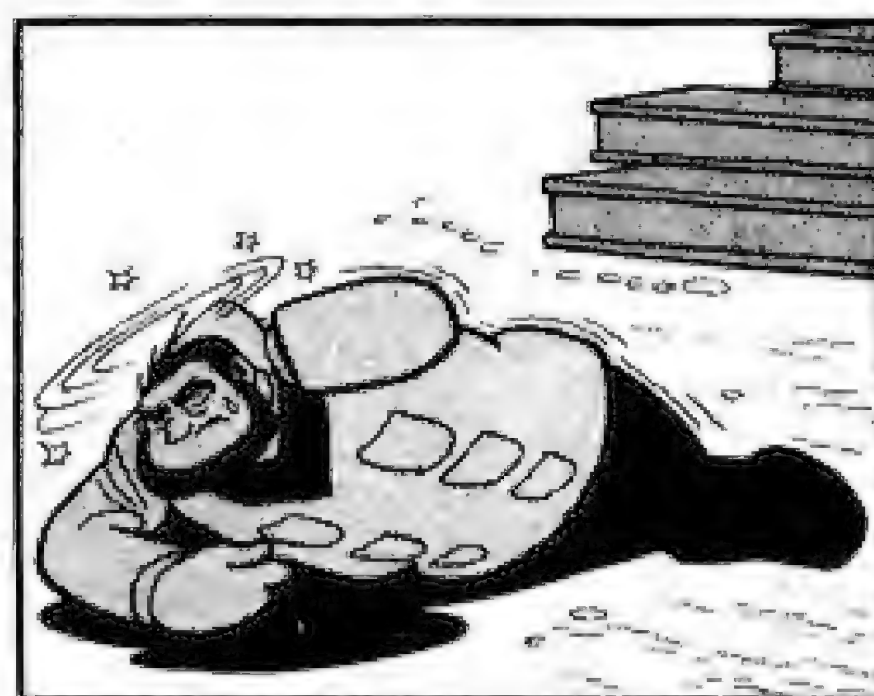
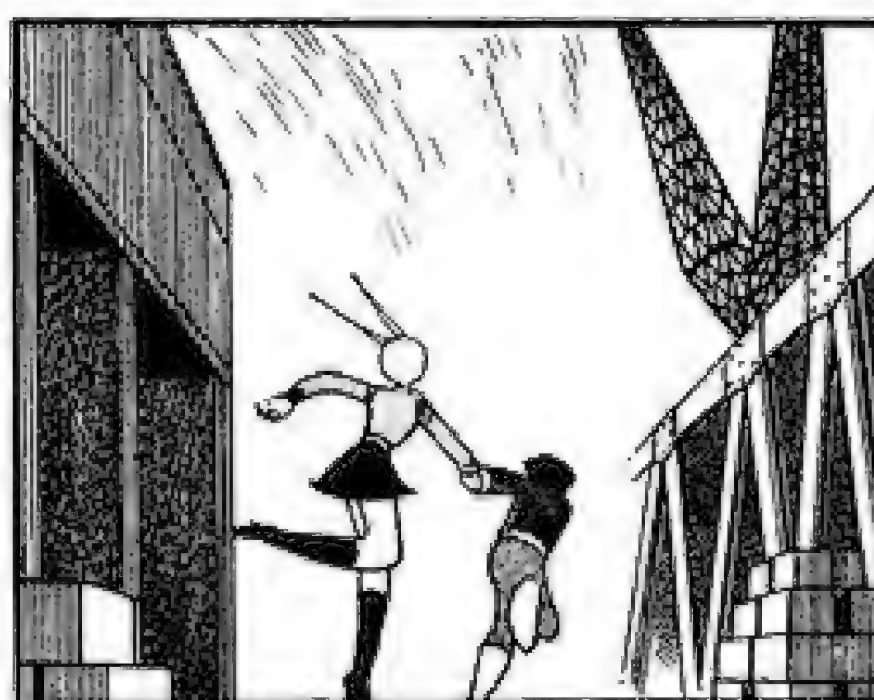
WELL, WE DON'T
WANT ANYMORE
TROUBLE...
SO GET OUT!

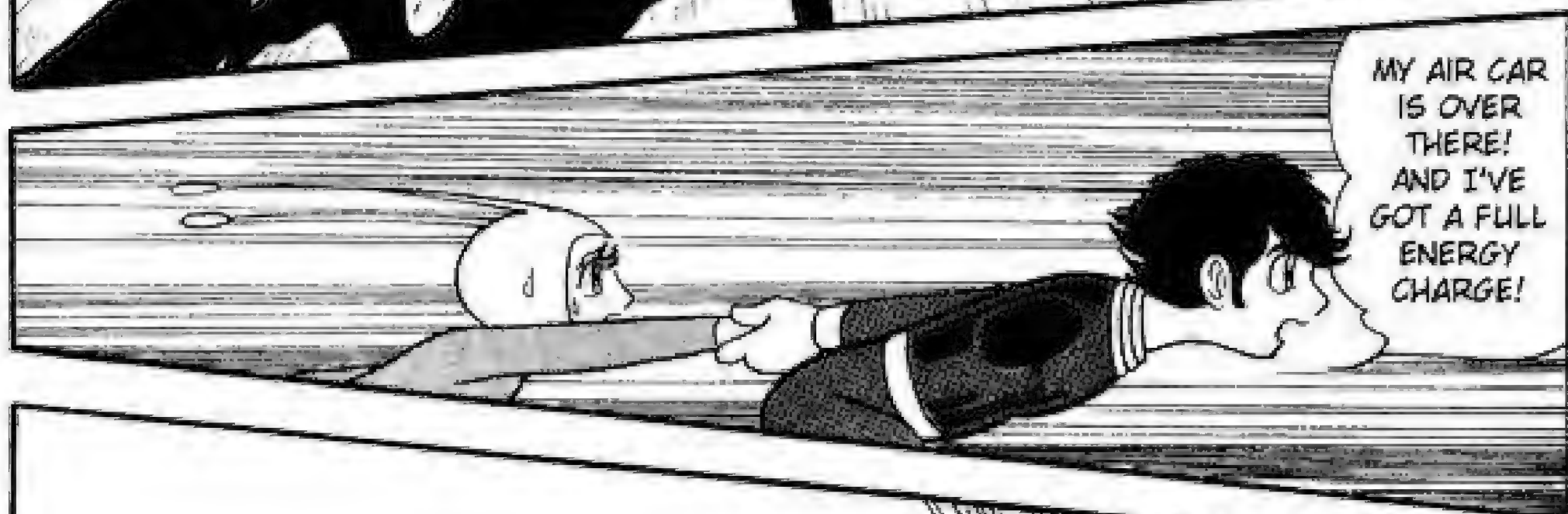
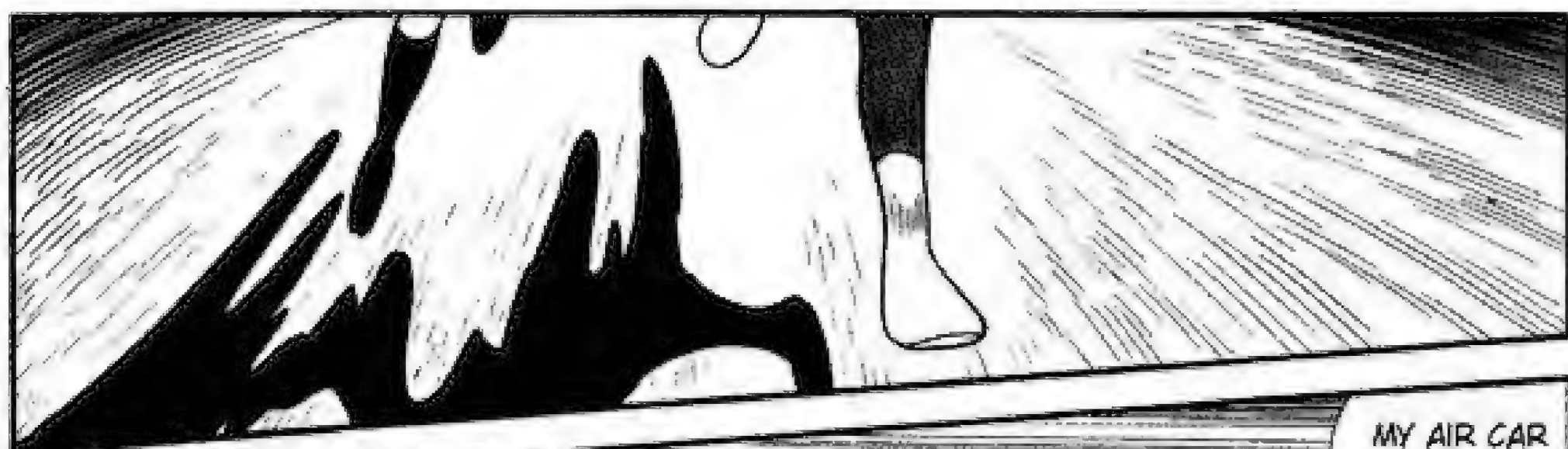
LET
GO
OF
ME!

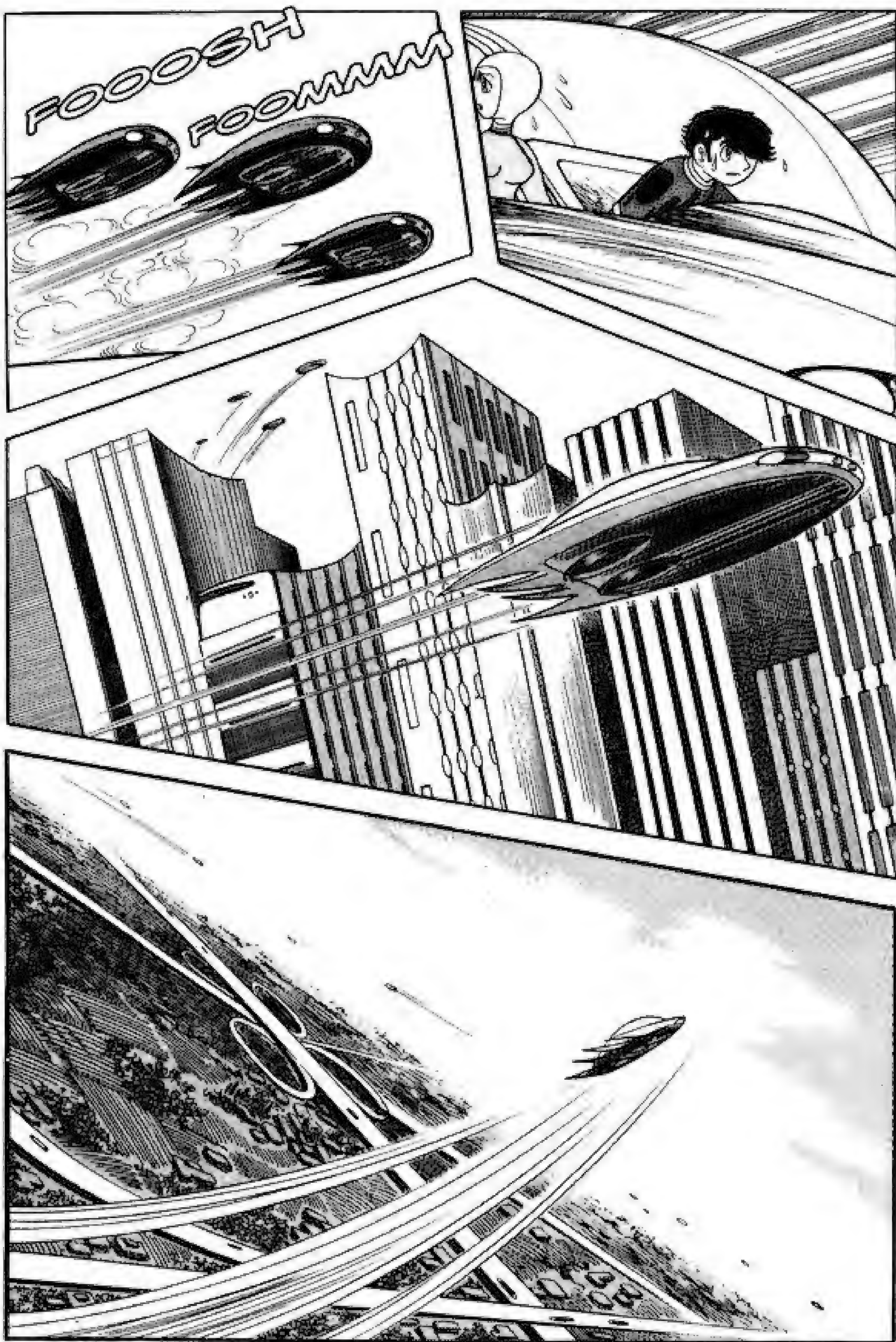


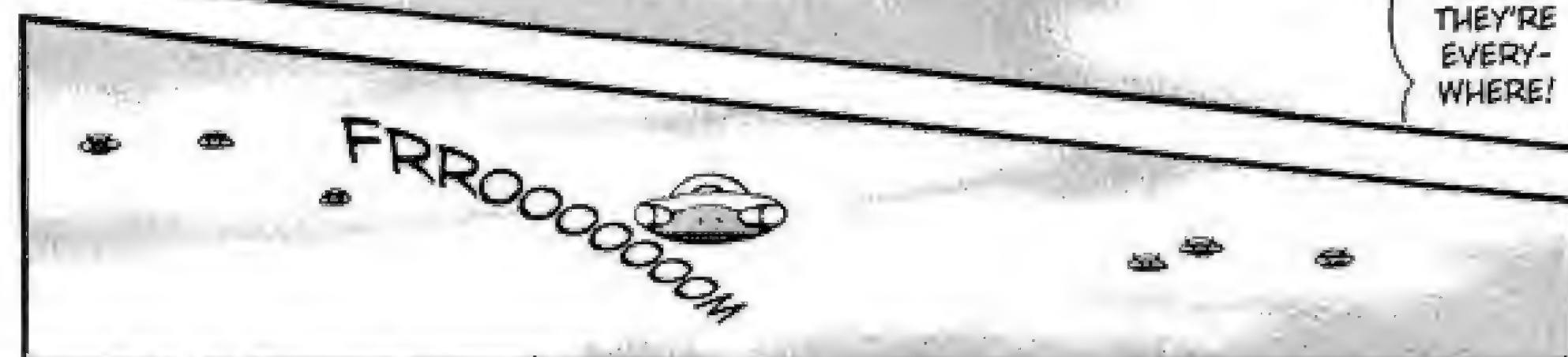
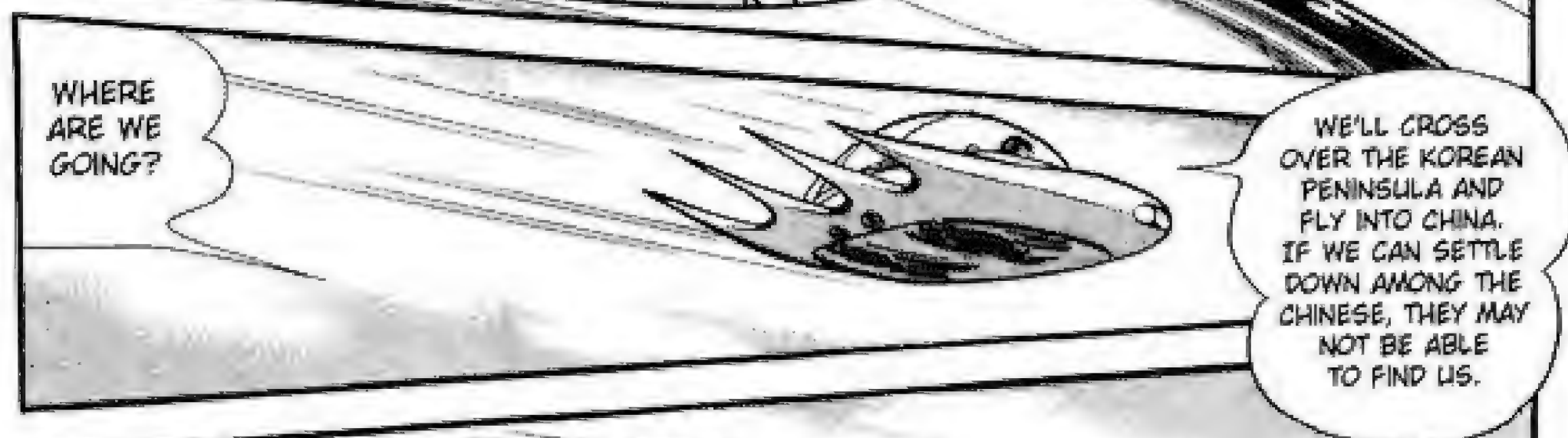
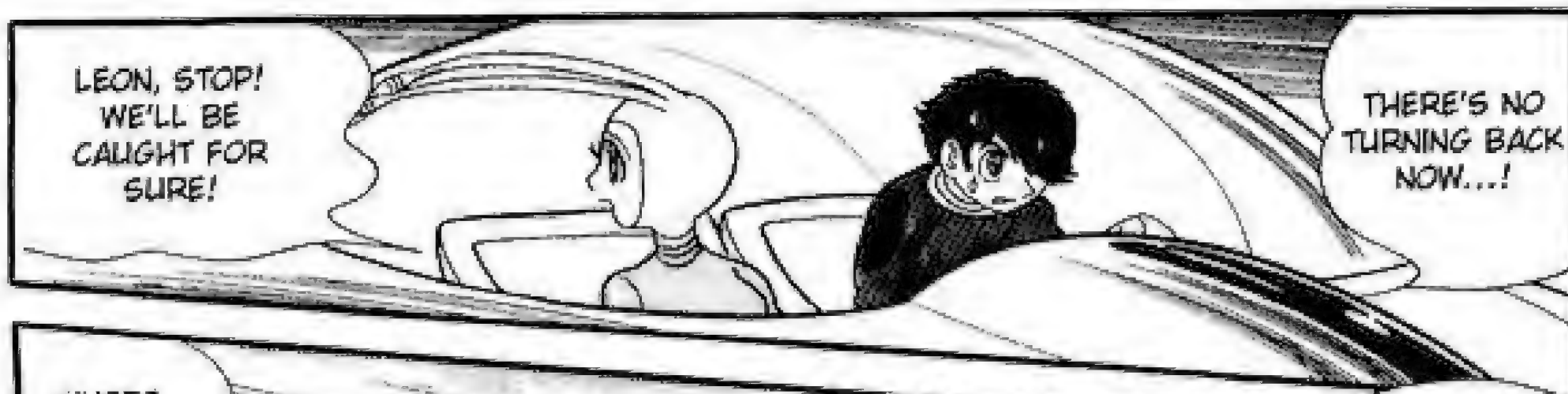
OOOMPH...
TRY AN'
RESIST,
WILL YA?

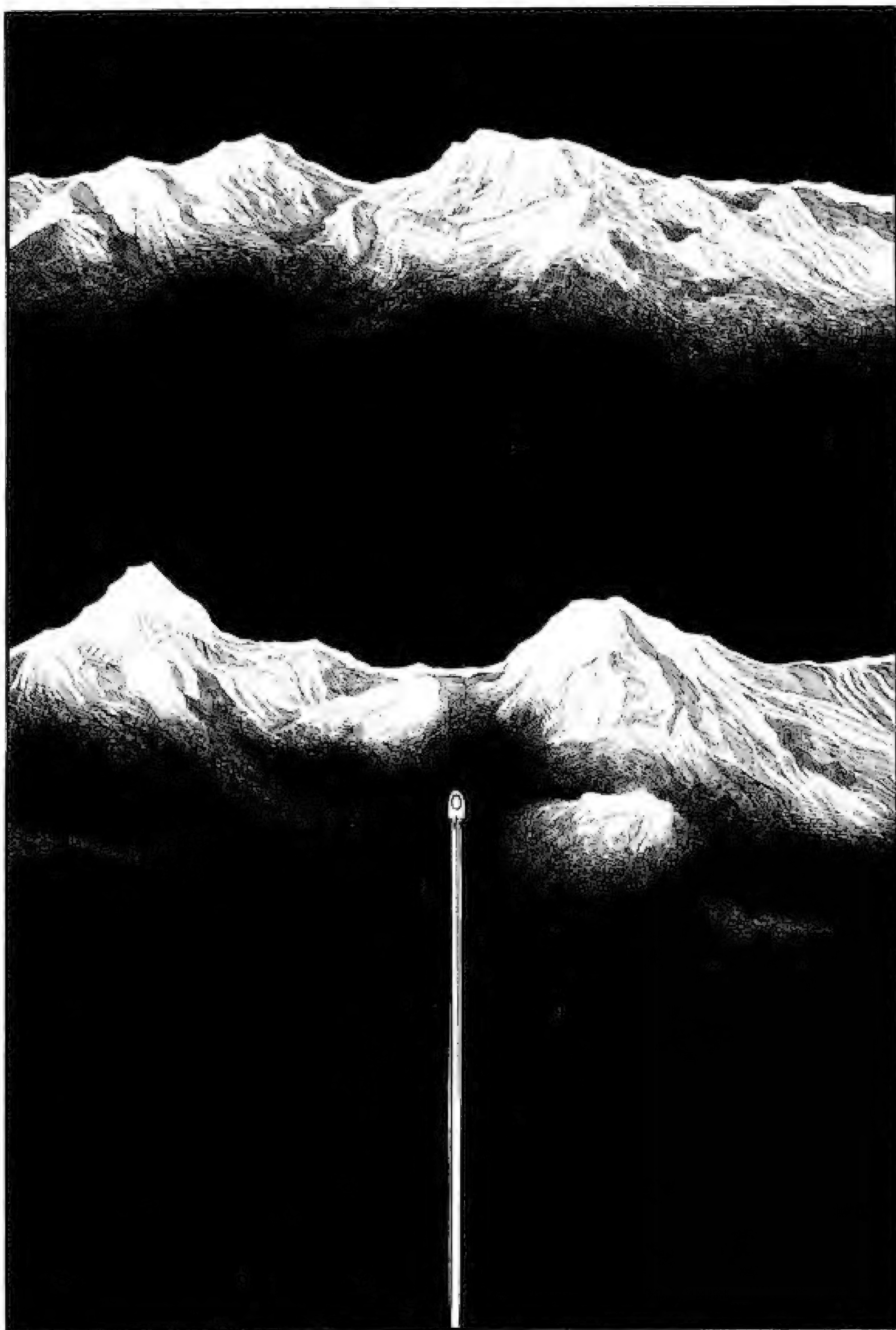
CHIIHIRO!

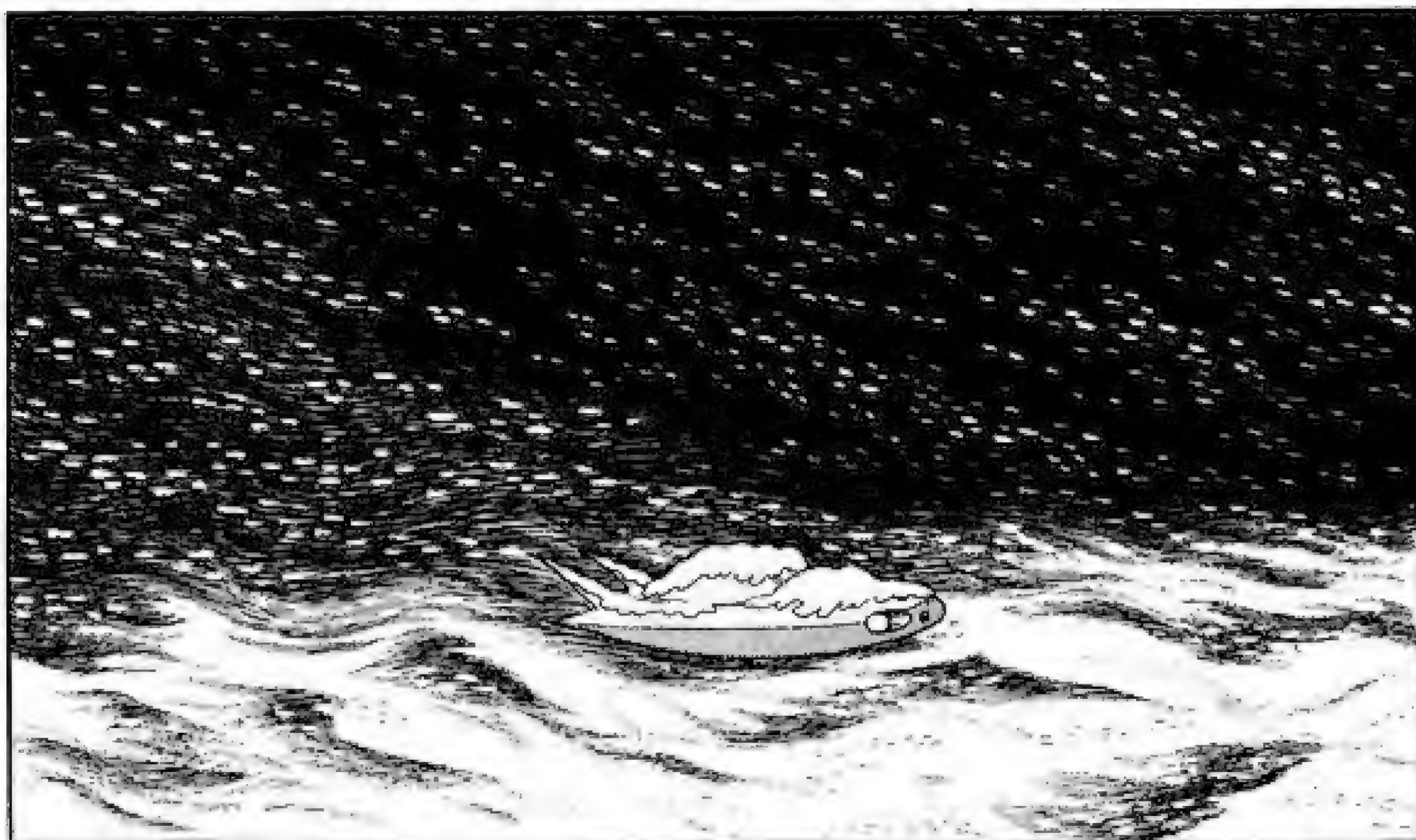


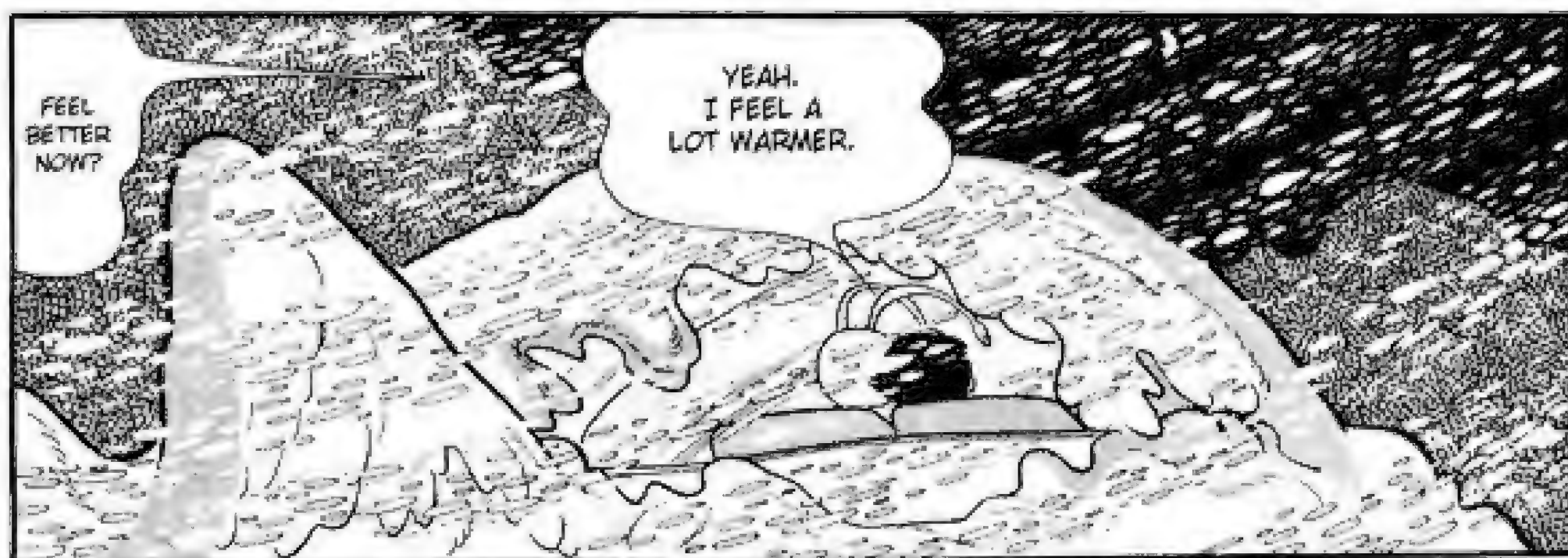
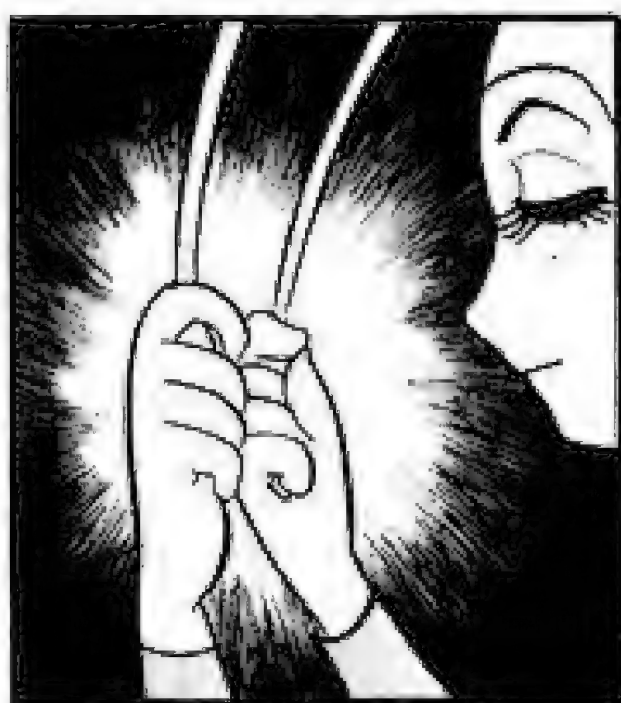












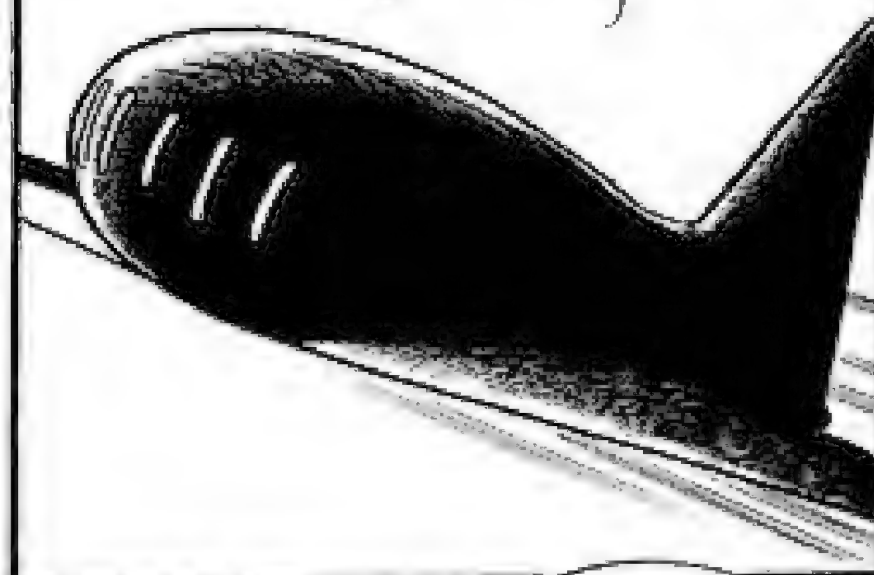




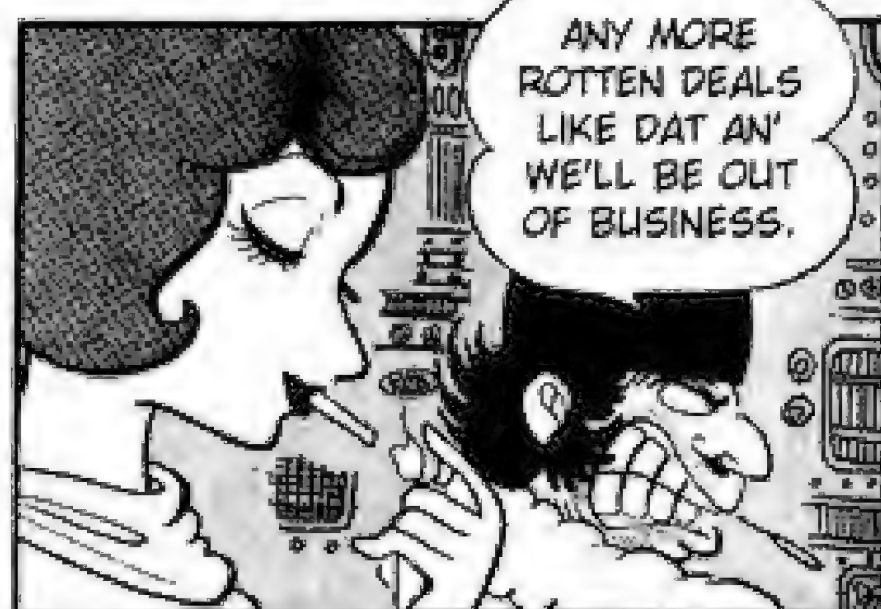


DA LAST MORGUE
DIDN'T COME
THROUGH
WITH A VERY
GOOD DEAL,
DID IT, BOSS?

HUMPH,
13 EYEBALLS,
FIVE DOZEN
ARMS AND
LEGS AND
THREE LOUSY
STOMACHS!



ANY MORE
ROTTEN DEALS
LIKE DAT AN'
WE'LL BE OUT
OF BUSINESS.



IF ONLY
THERE WAS
ANOTHER WAR...
WE COULD PULL
IN 10 OR 20
THOUSAND
FRESH
CORPSES
IN NO TIME...

BUT IN
PEACEFUL
TIMES LIKE
THIS, EVERY-
BODY LIVES
TOO LONG!
ALL WE CAN
GET ARE
WRINKLED
OLD
DECEASED
SENIOR
CITIZENS.



YEAH, AN' TO
PAY SOMEONE
TO BLUMP PEOPLE
OFF FOR US
COSTS TOO
MUCH...







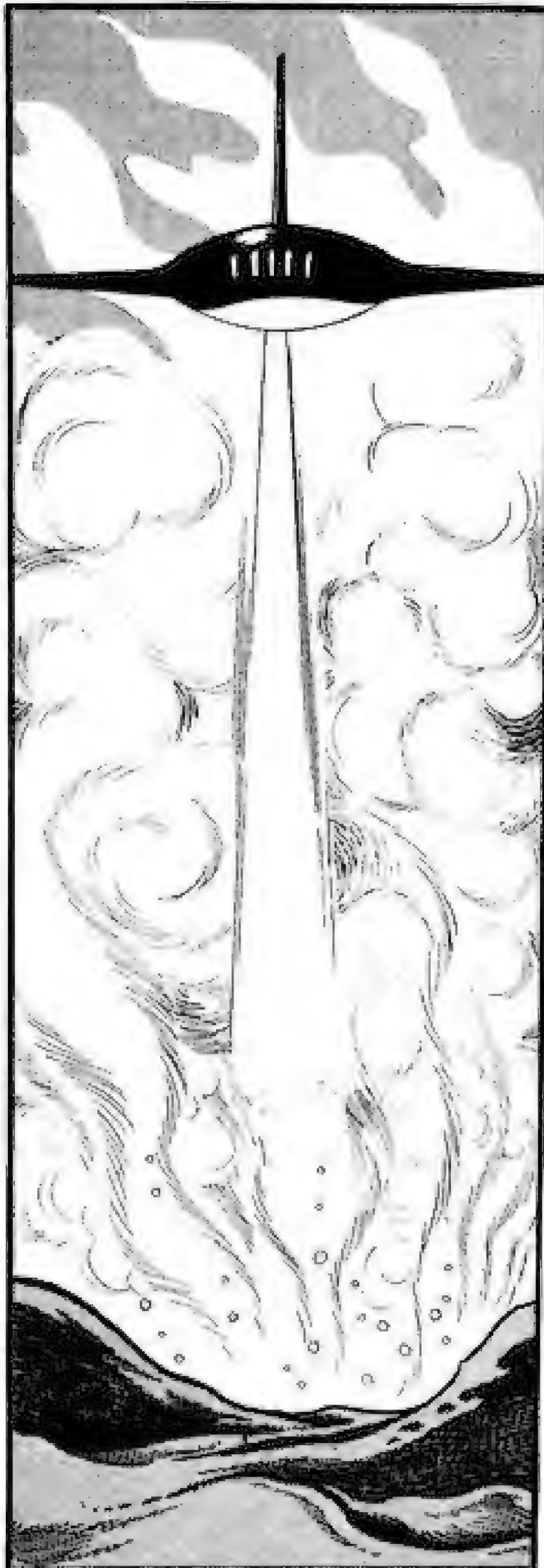
HEY, BOSS.
I SAW
SOMETHING
METALLIC
FLASH
DOWN
DER IN
DA SNOW.



IT'S
RIGHT
UNDER US.
YOU WANT
TO TAKE
A LOOK?



LA-
ZER
AWAY
DA ICE.



WHADA
YA KNOW...
DER'S AN AIR
CAR BURIED
DER.

HEH!
AN' THERE'S
SOME FOOL
IN IT WITH
A ROBOT!



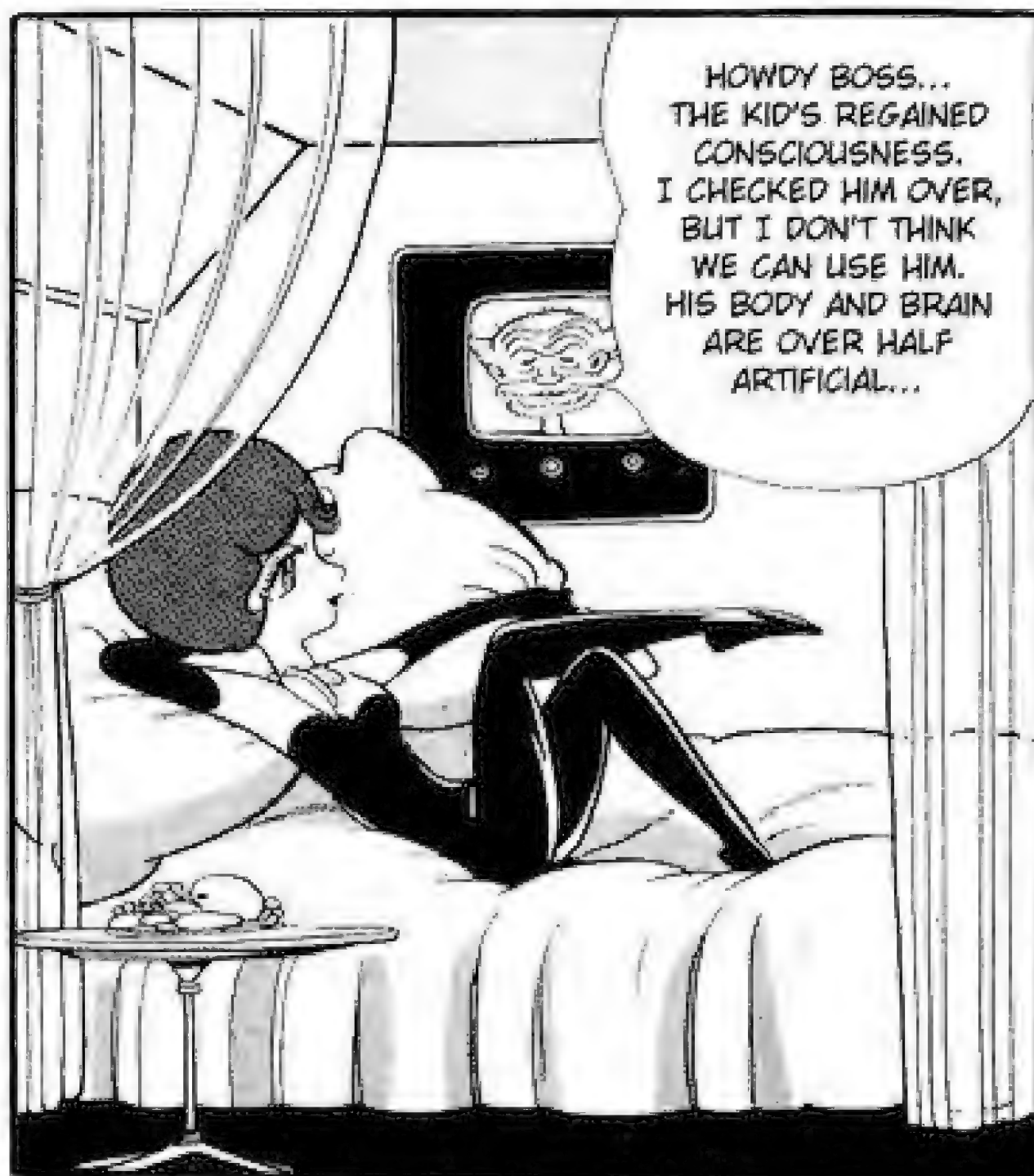
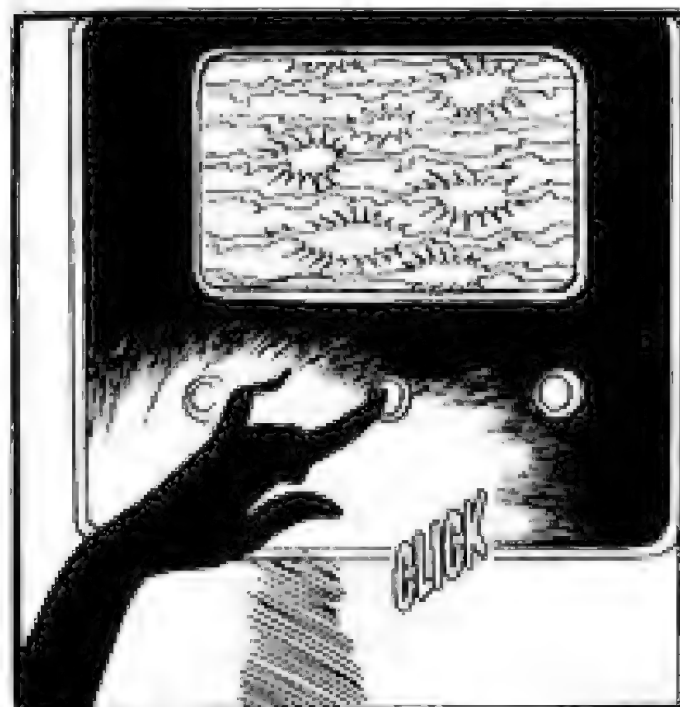
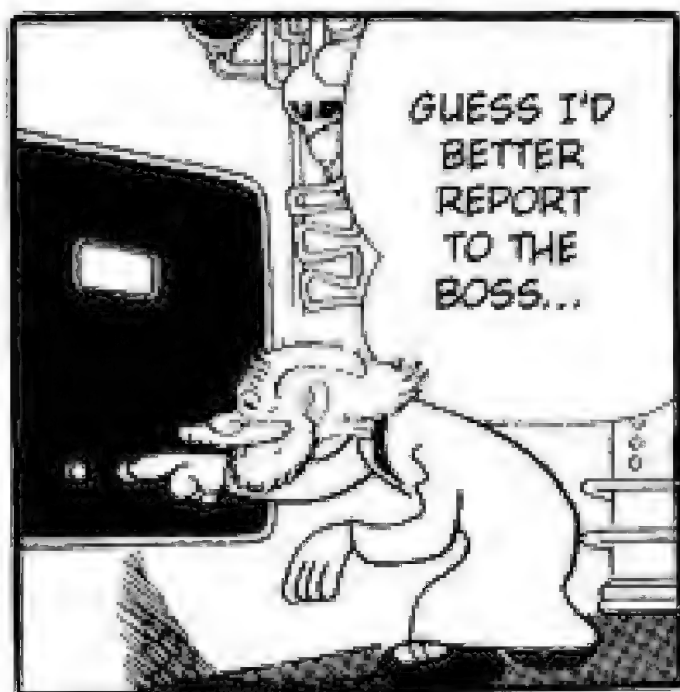
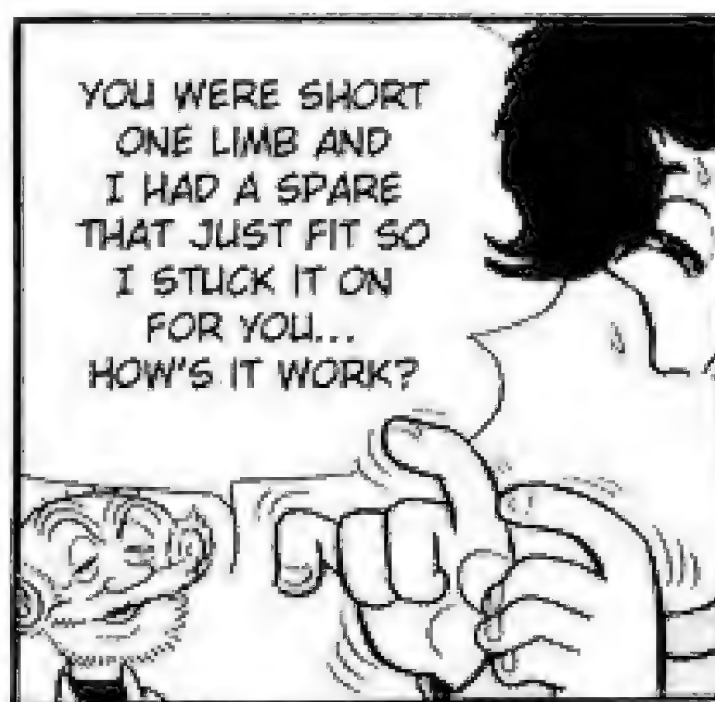
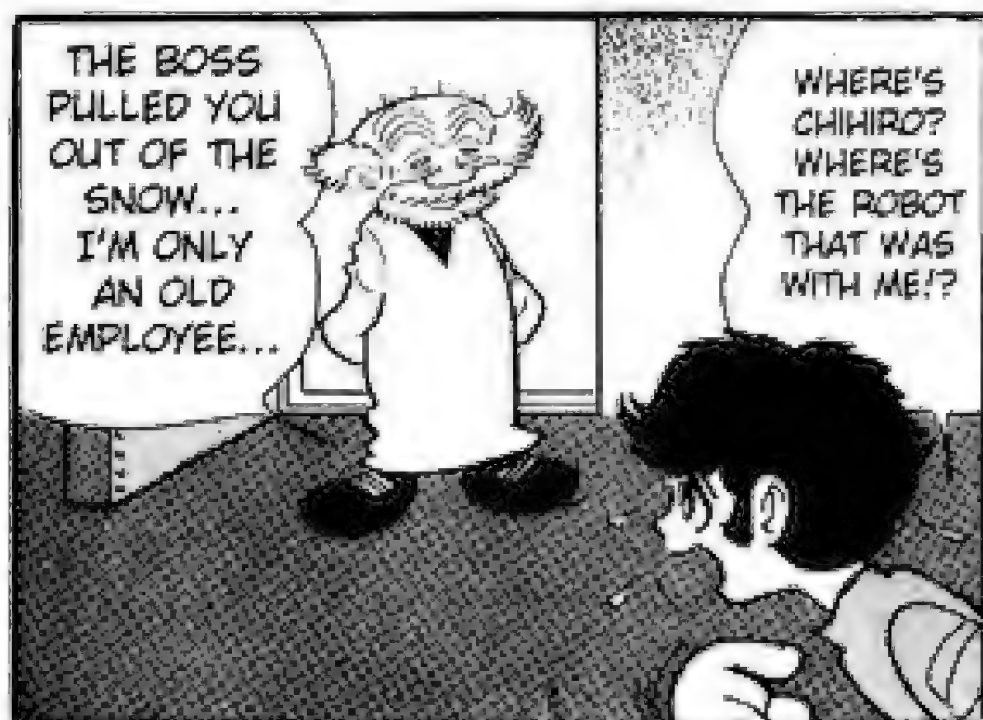
WHAT DO YOU
MAKE OF IT?
THEY GOT
THEMSELVES
ALL WRAPPED
AROUND EACH
OTHER.

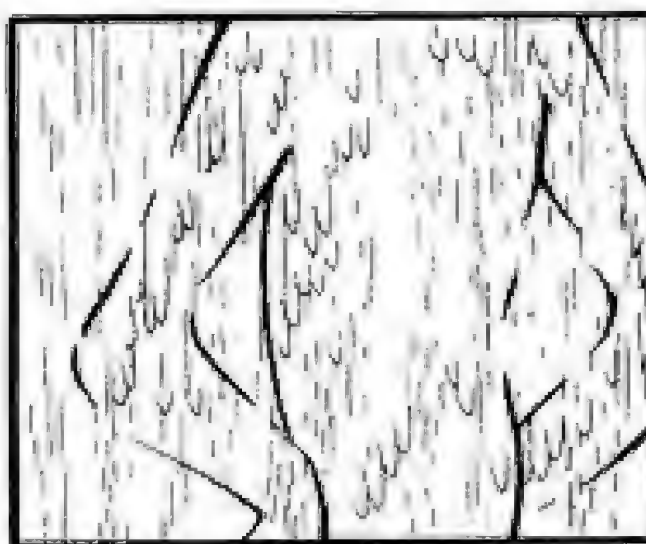
COZY
LITTLE
COUPLE,
EH?

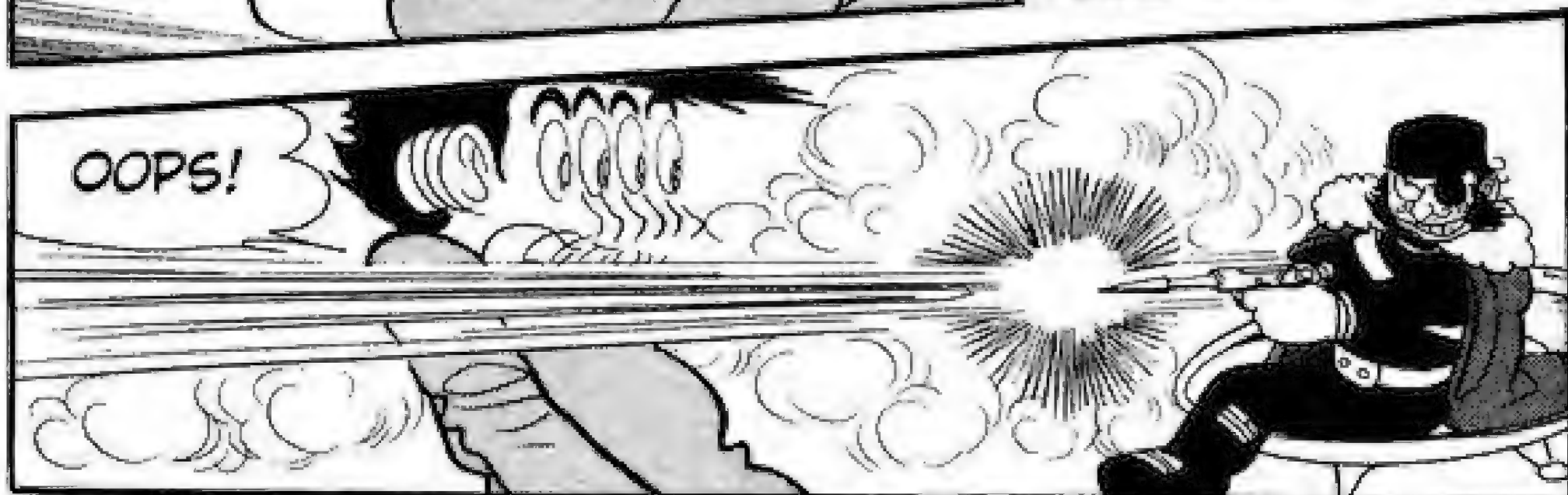
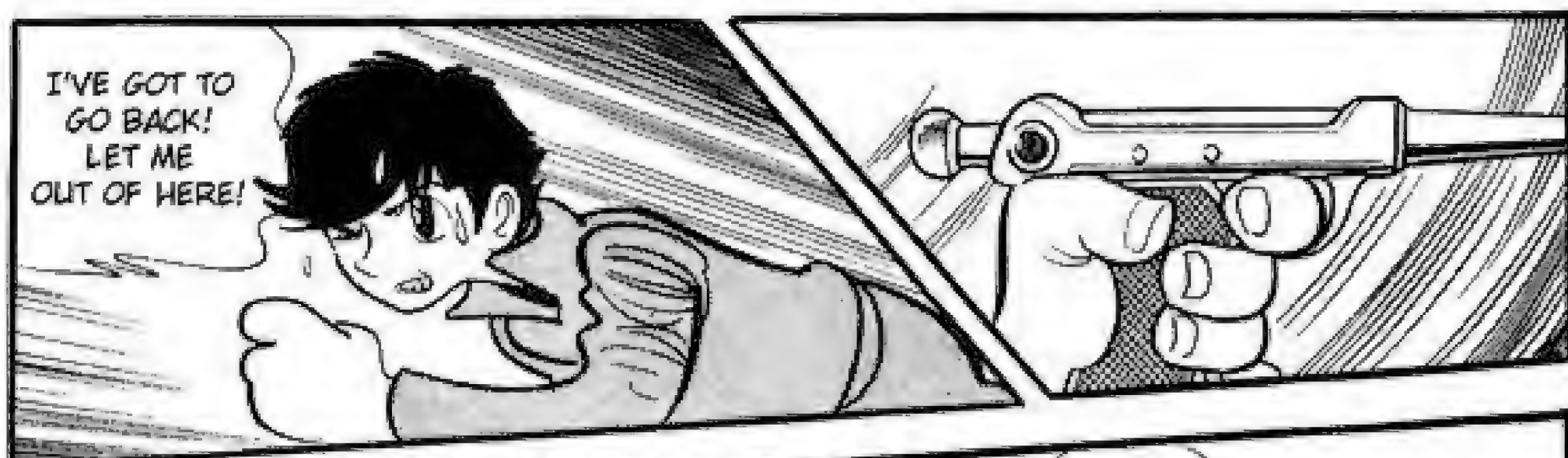


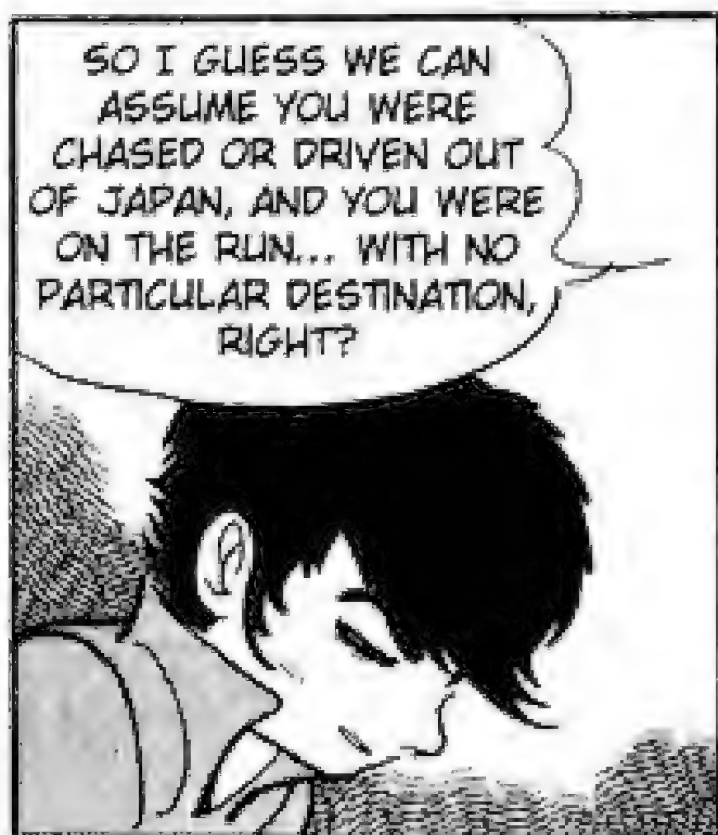
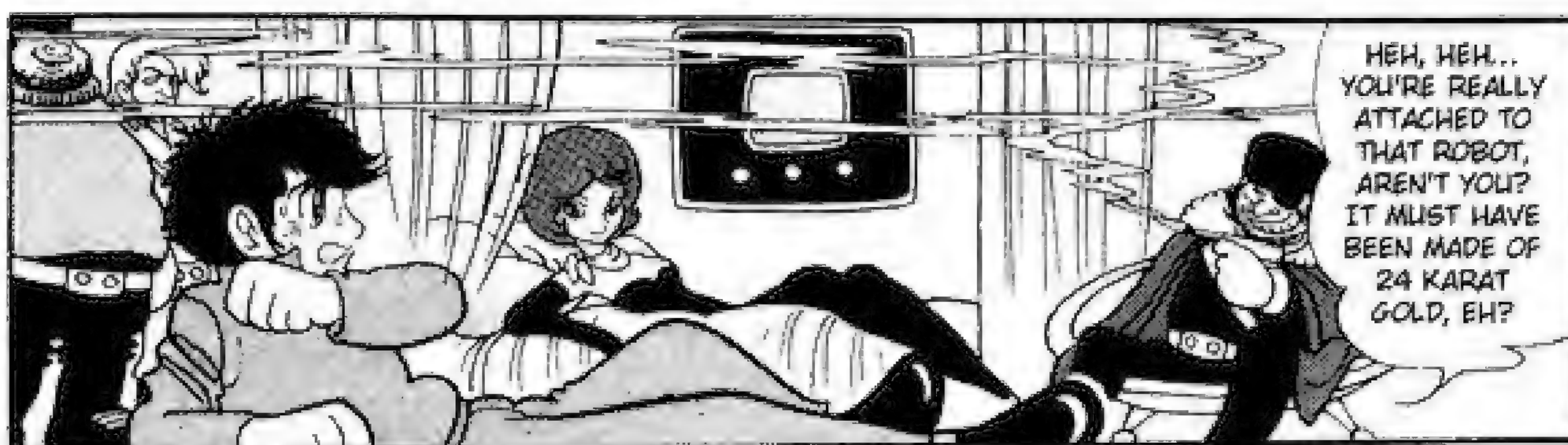
LATER...











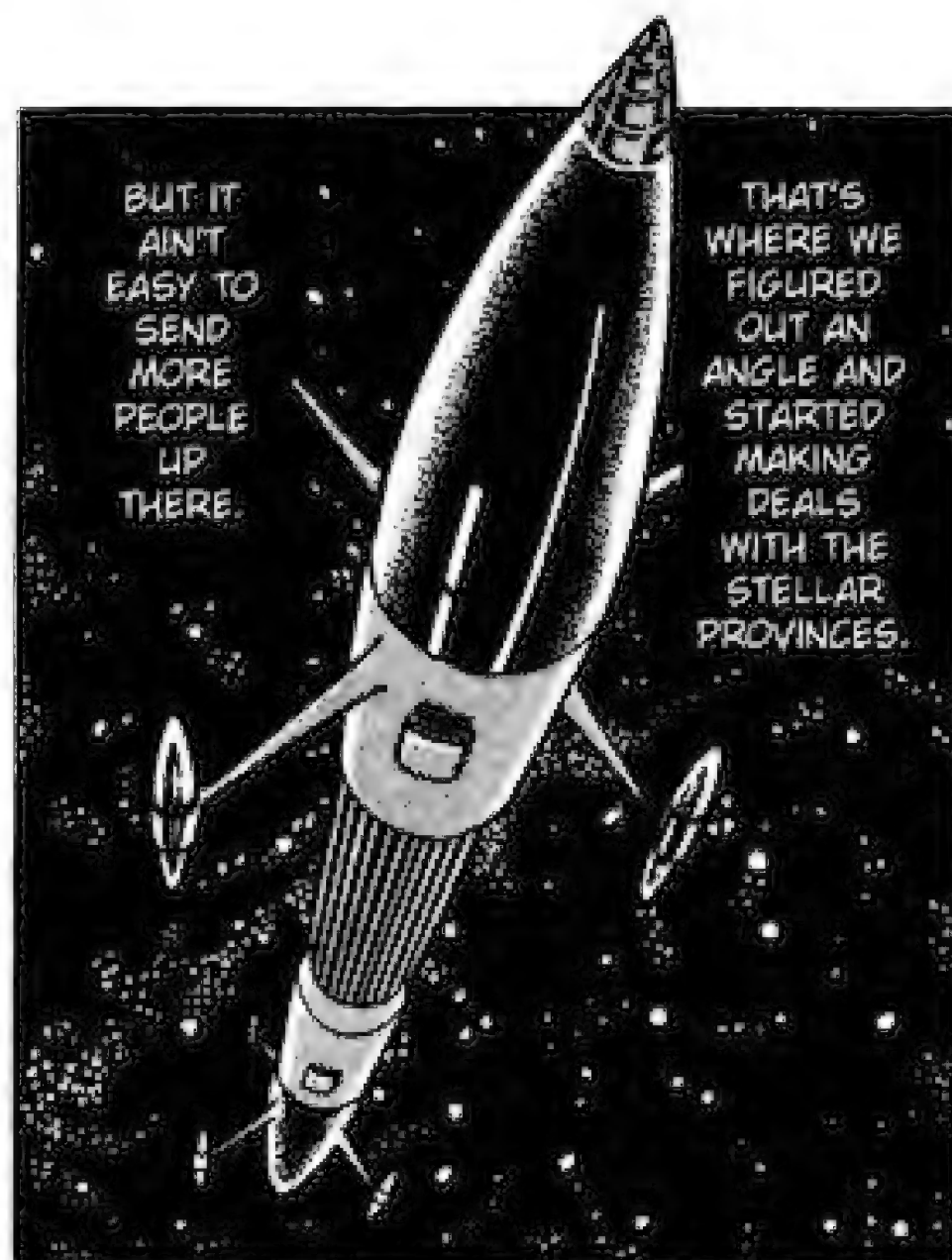
BUT IT SEEMS
THAT MOST OF THE
SPACE PIONEERS
DON'T LIVE VERY
LONG. THEY KEEP
DYIN' OFF LIKE
FLIES. MAYBE IT'S
THE HARD WORK,
OR MAYBE THEY
JUST AREN'T
VERY STRONG...

WELL, THE
SPACE MINISTRY
GOT PANICKY
AND STARTED
TO SEND MORE
REPLACEMENTS
UP...



BUT IT
AIN'T
EASY TO
SEND
MORE
PEOPLE
UP
THERE.

THAT'S
WHERE WE
FIGURED
OUT AN
ANGLE AND
STARTED
MAKING
DEALS
WITH THE
STELLAR
PROVINCES.

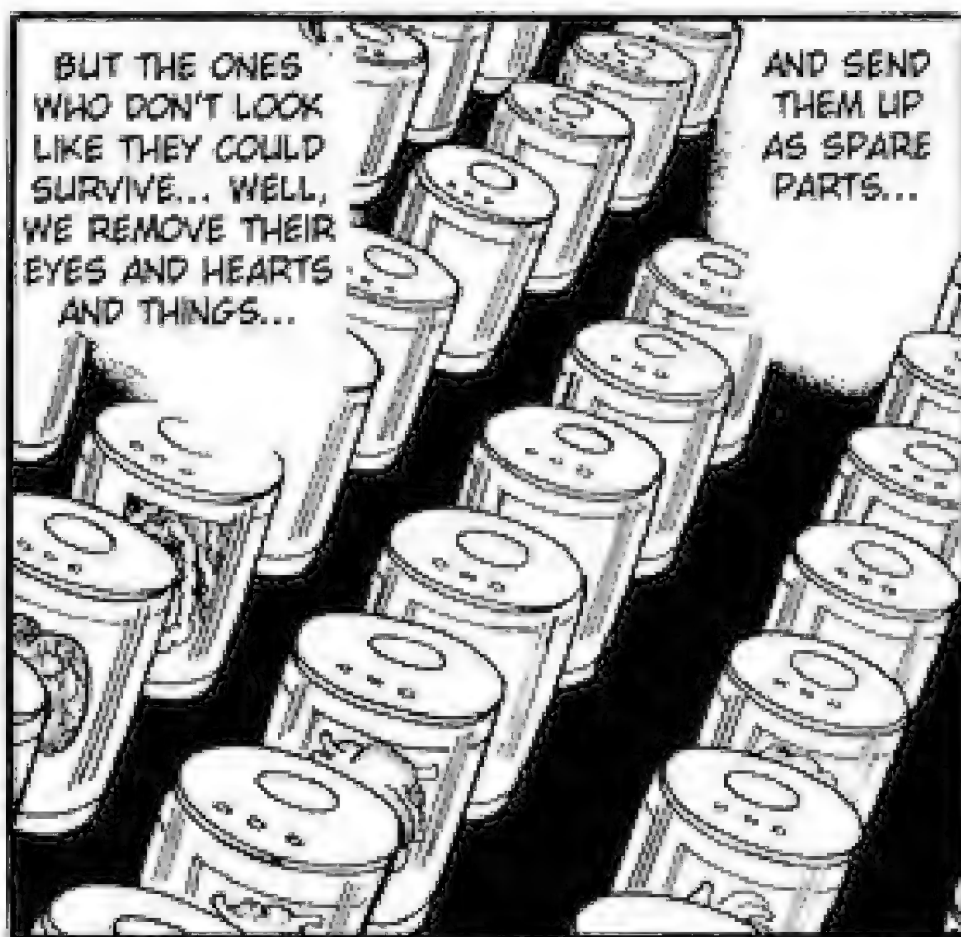


YOU SEE, WE
SEND MEN WITH
STRONG HUSKY
BODIES TO THE
PIONEERS...



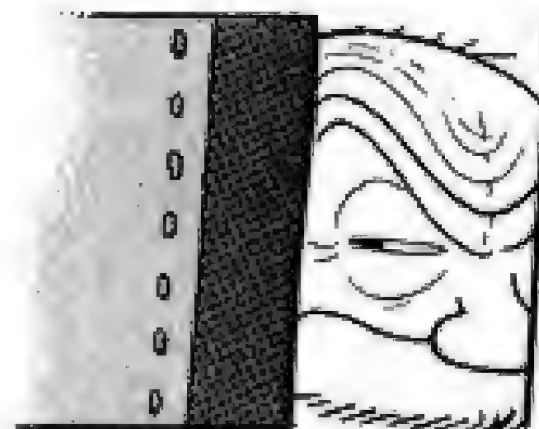
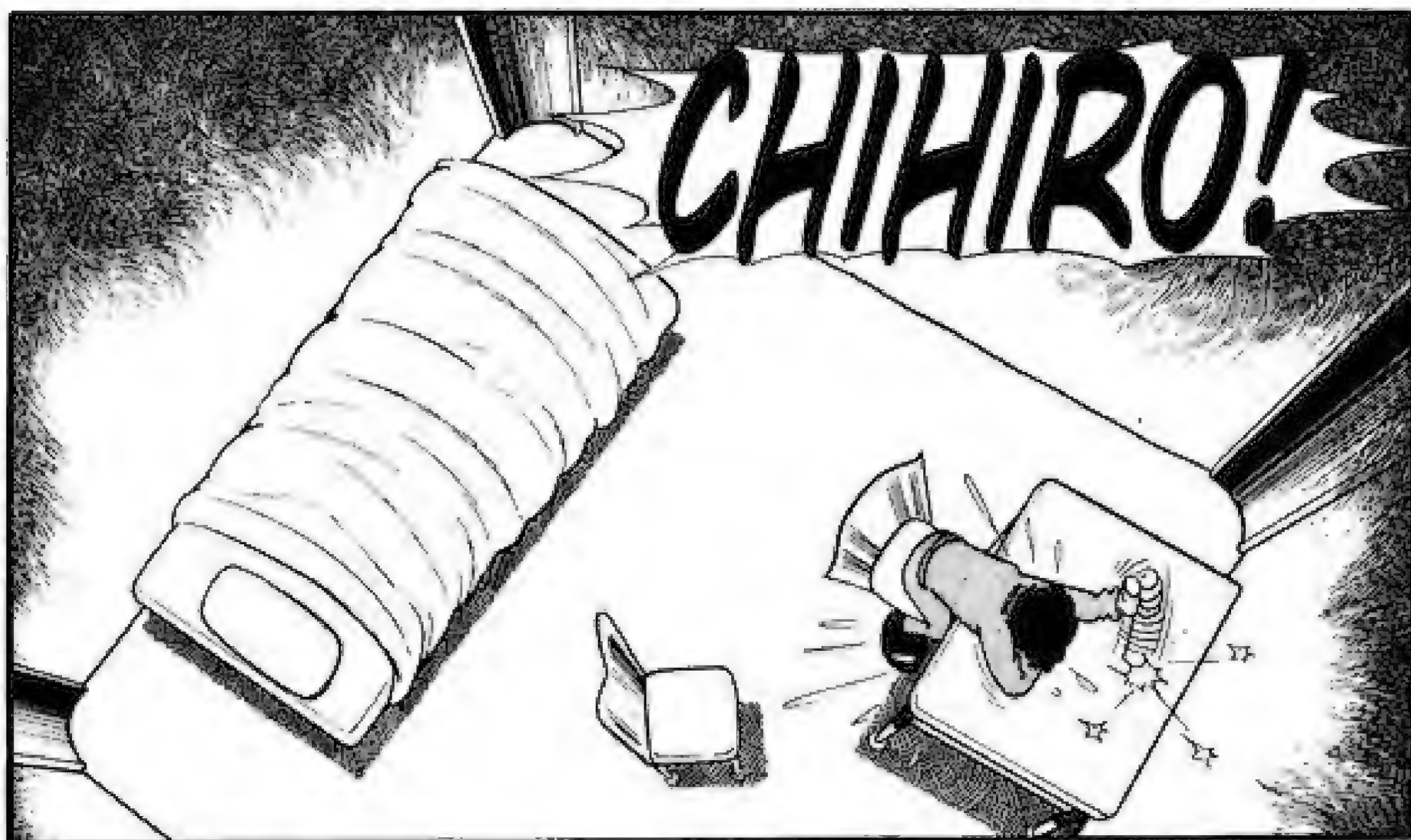
BUT THE ONES
WHO DON'T LOOK
LIKE THEY COULD
SURVIVE... WELL,
WE REMOVE THEIR
EYES AND HEARTS
AND THINGS...

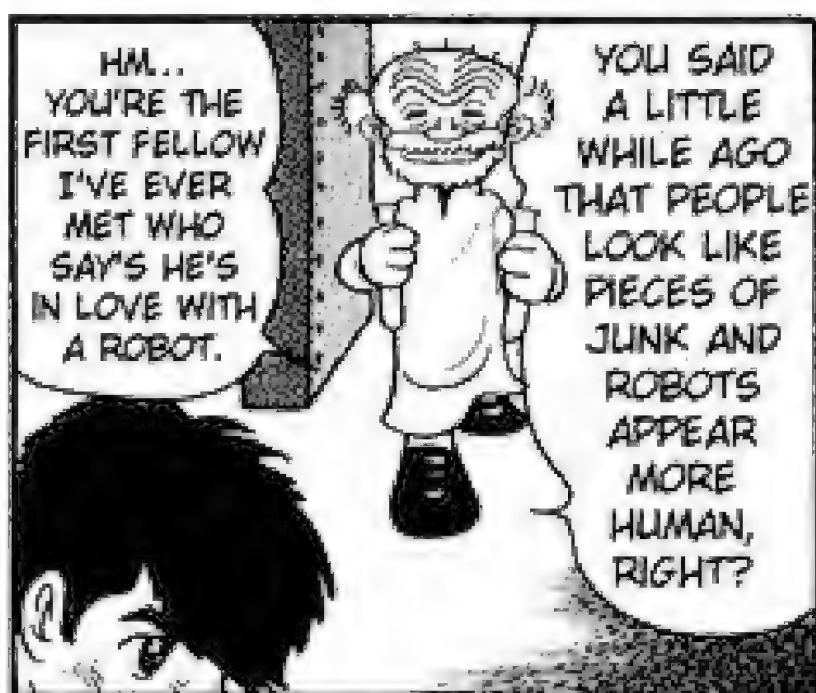
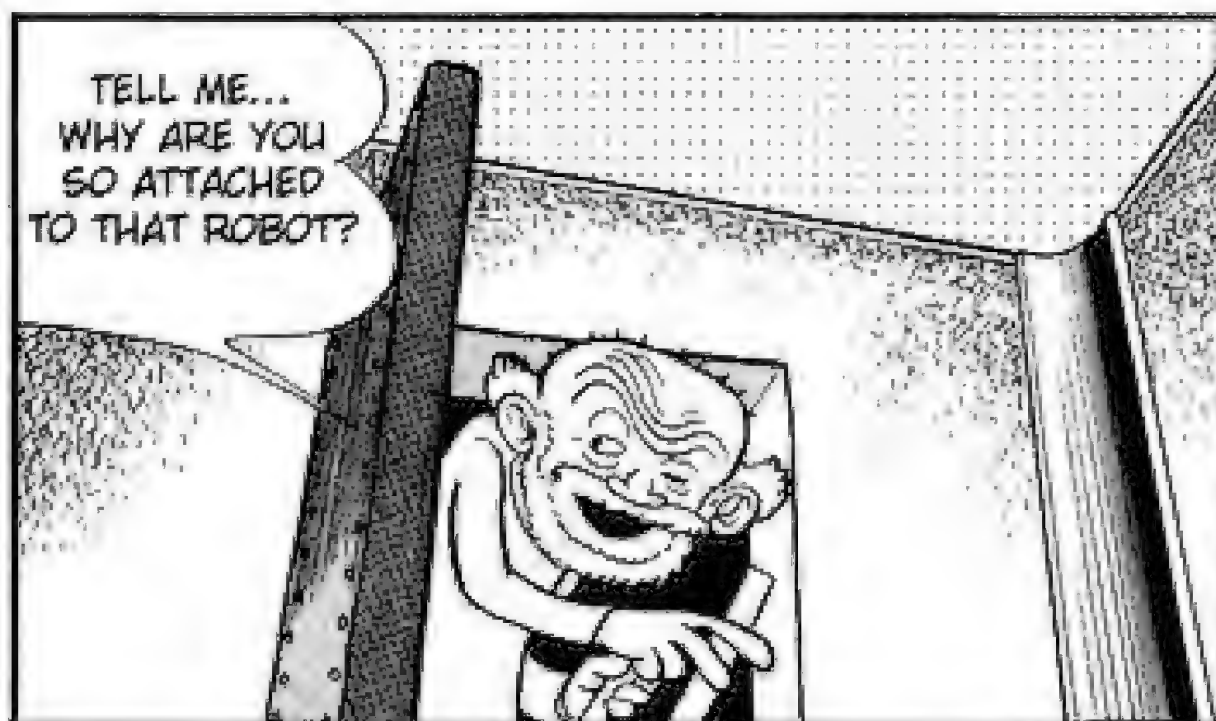
AND SEND
THEM UP
AS SPARE
PARTS...

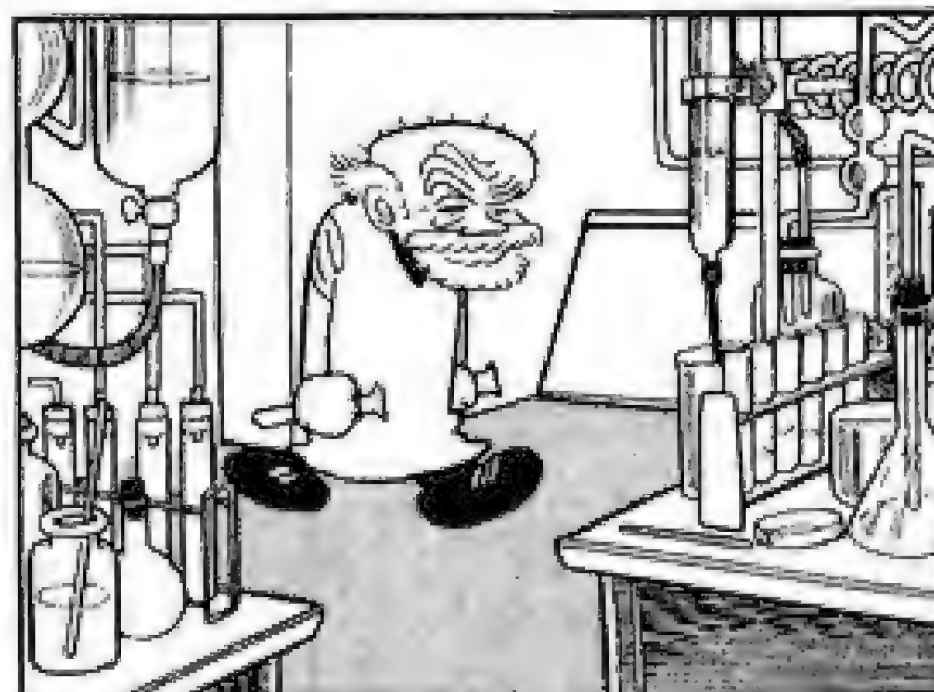
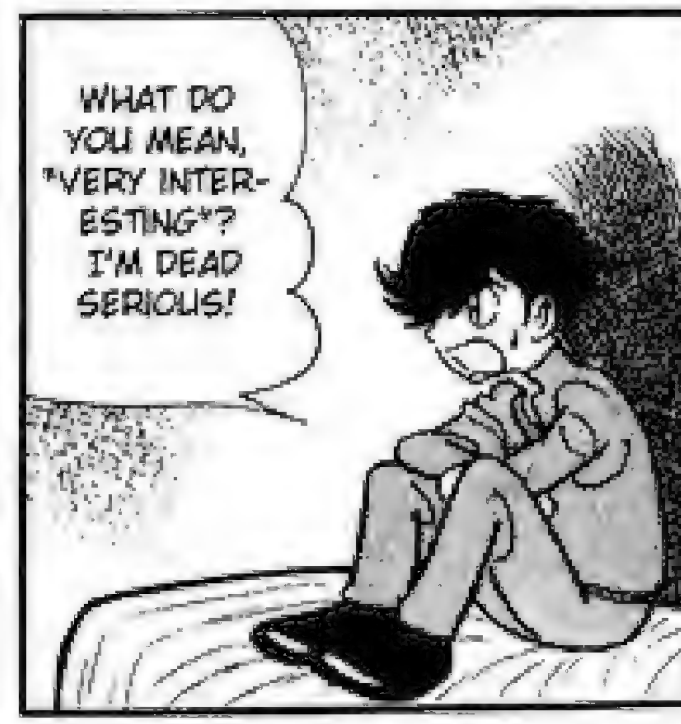
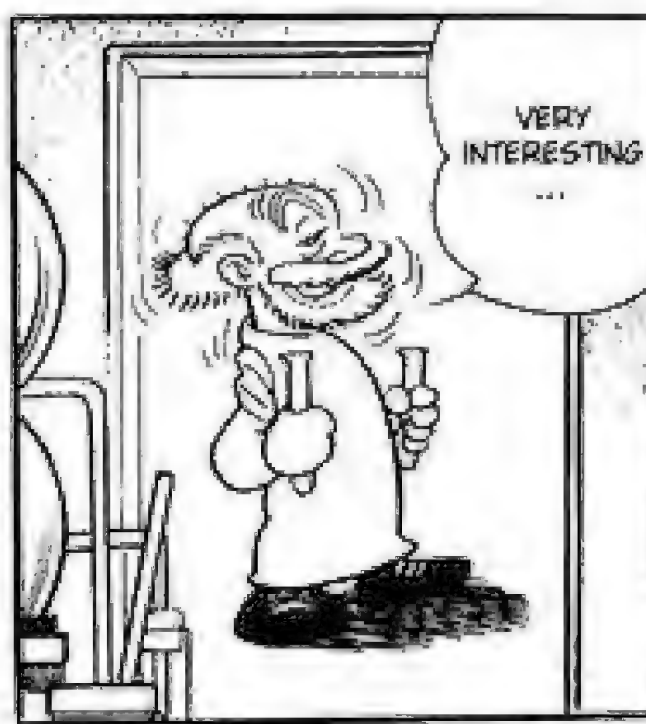
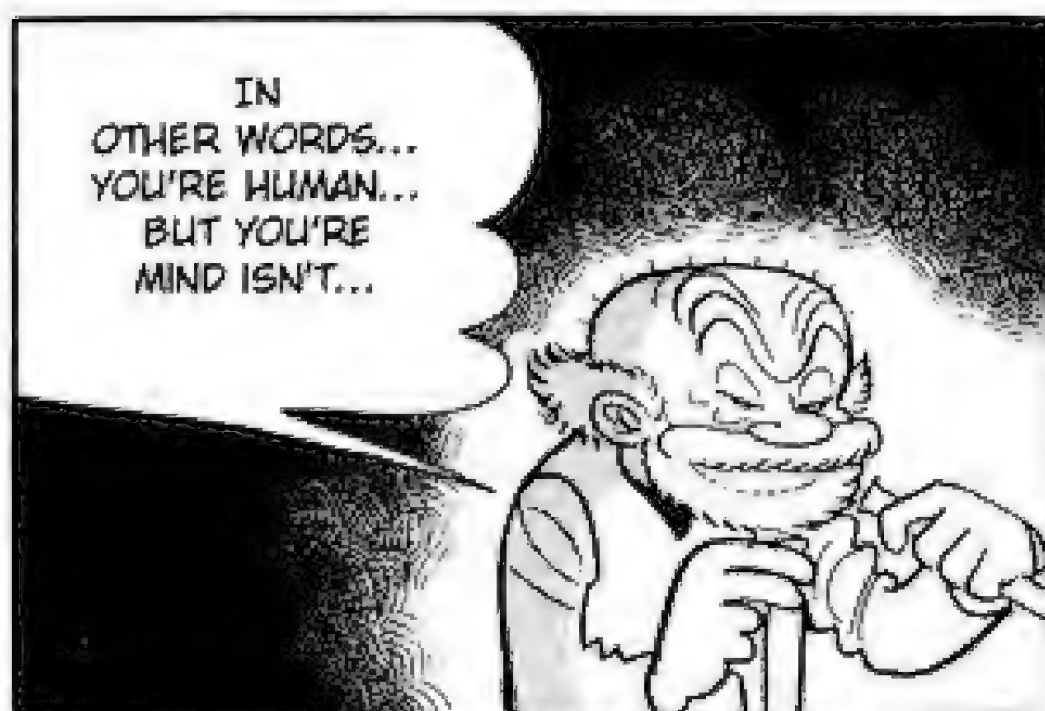






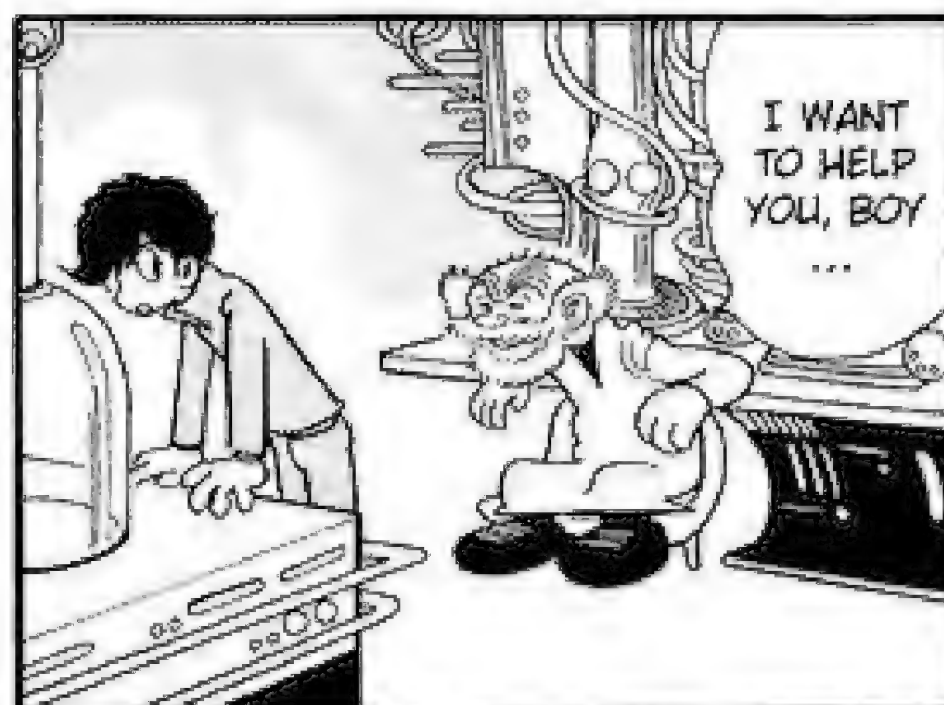
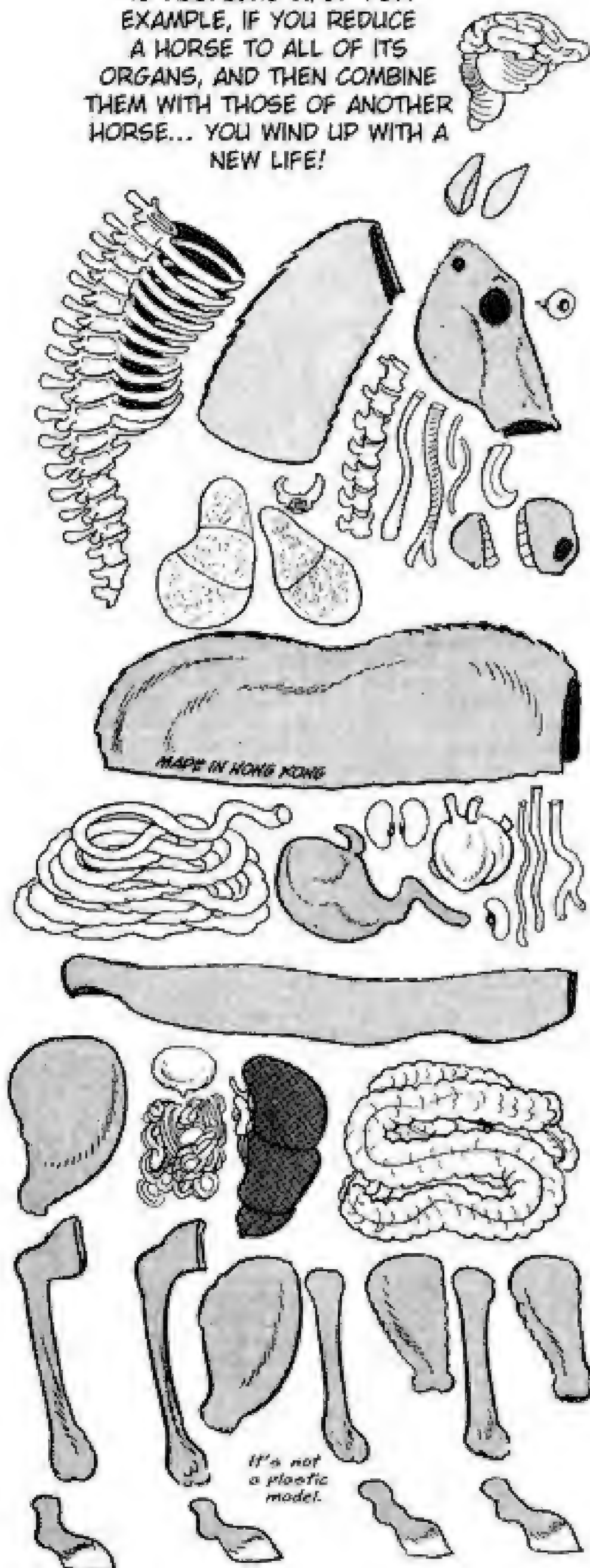






EVER HEAR THAT $1+1=1$, BOY?
THAT'S THE BASIC EQUATION
FOR COMBINING TWO
ANIMALS AND GETTING ONE...

THAT, I BELIEVE, IS THE WAY
TO RECREATE LIFE. FOR
EXAMPLE, IF YOU REDUCE
A HORSE TO ALL OF ITS
ORGANS, AND THEN COMBINE
THEM WITH THOSE OF ANOTHER
HORSE... YOU WIND UP WITH A
NEW LIFE!



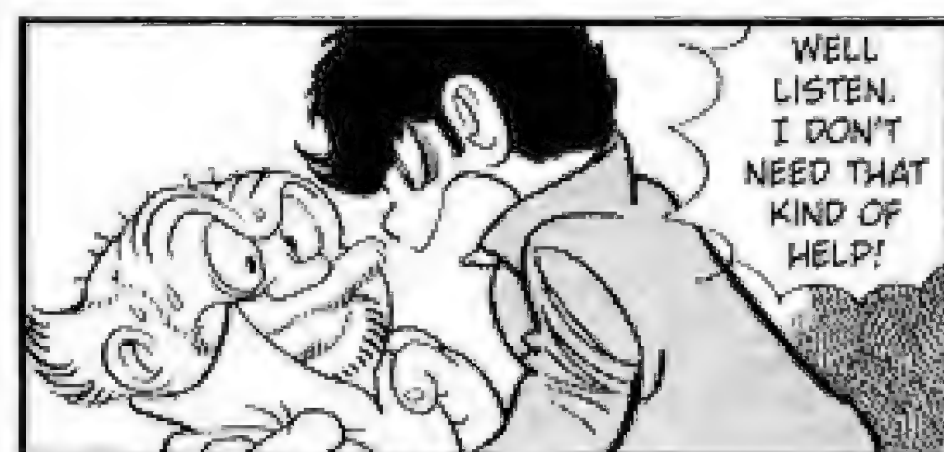
I WANT
TO HELP
YOU, BOY
...



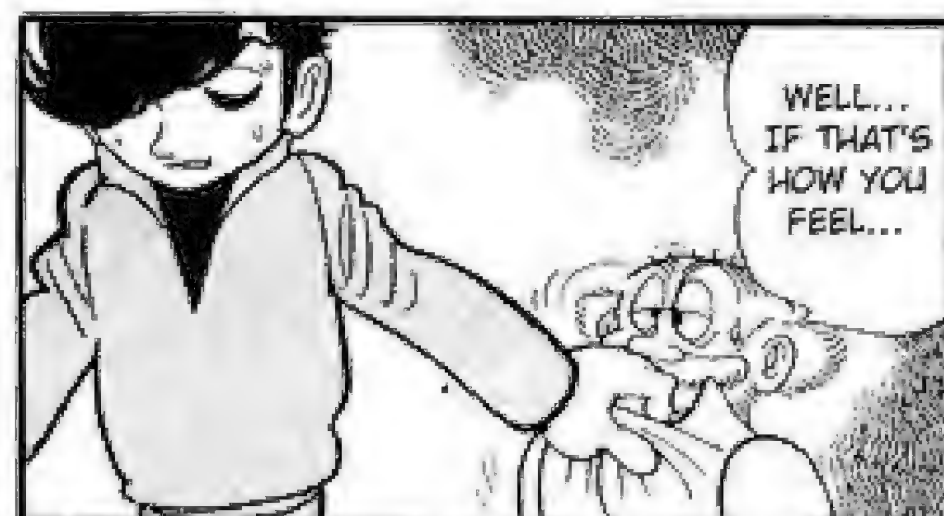
HELP
ME?



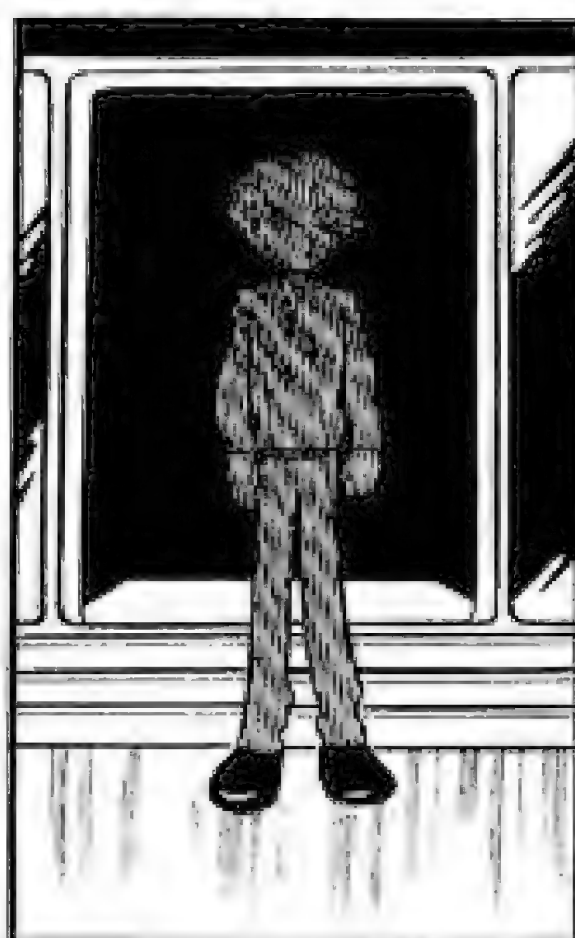
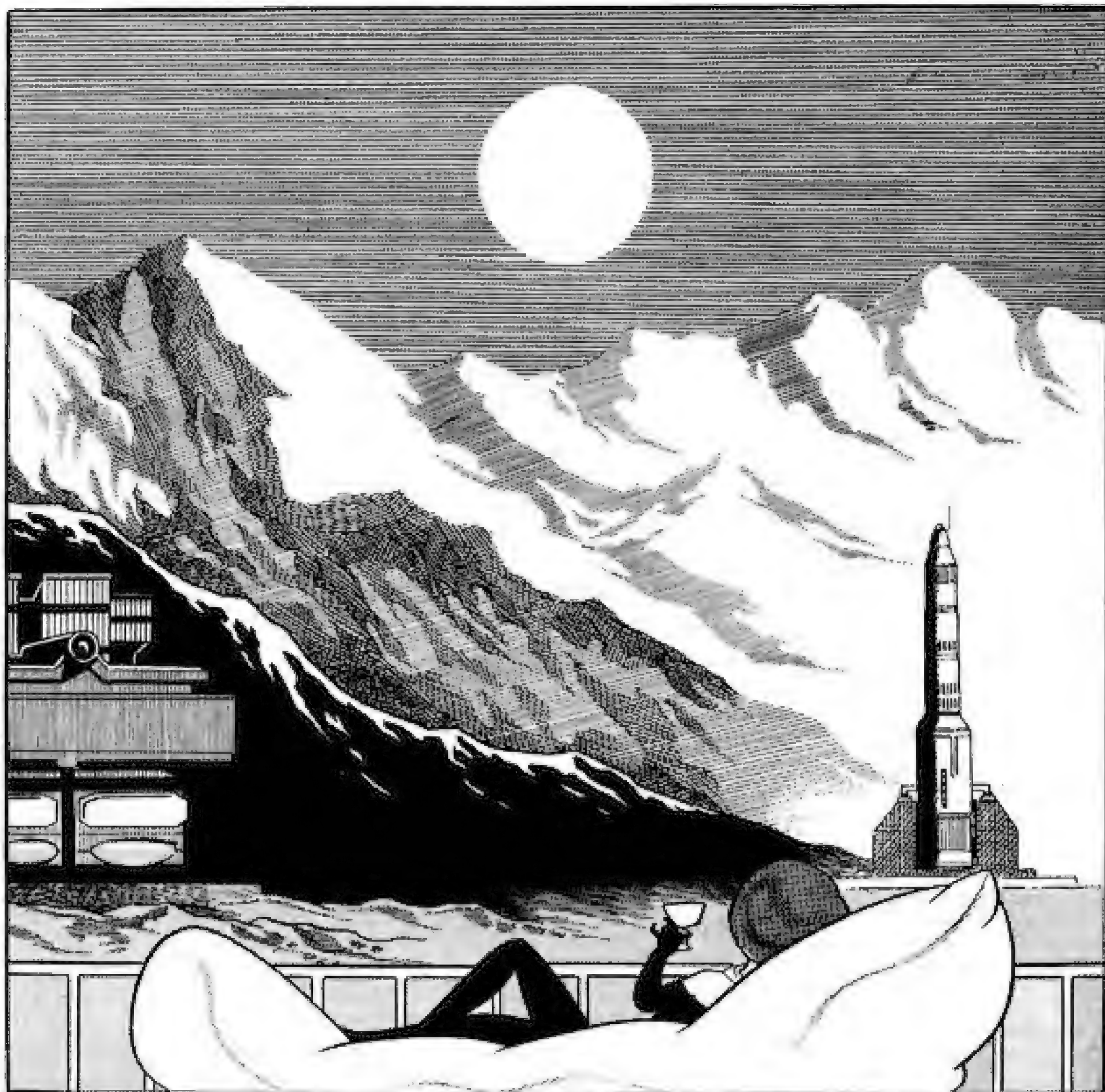
I WANT TO FIX
YOU SO THAT
YOU CAN FORGET
ABOUT THAT
ROBOT AND FALL
IN LOVE WITH
A REAL WOMAN...

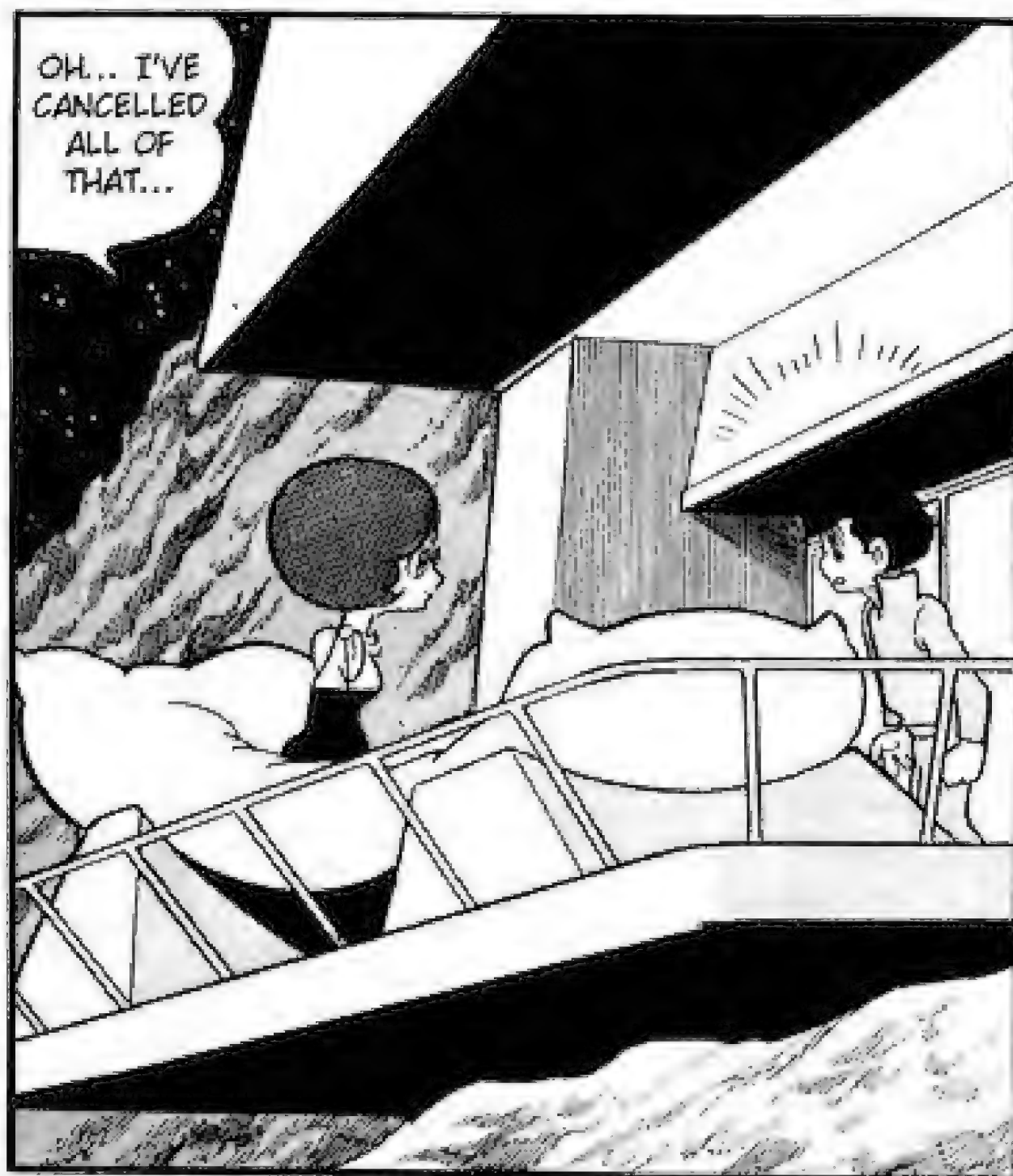
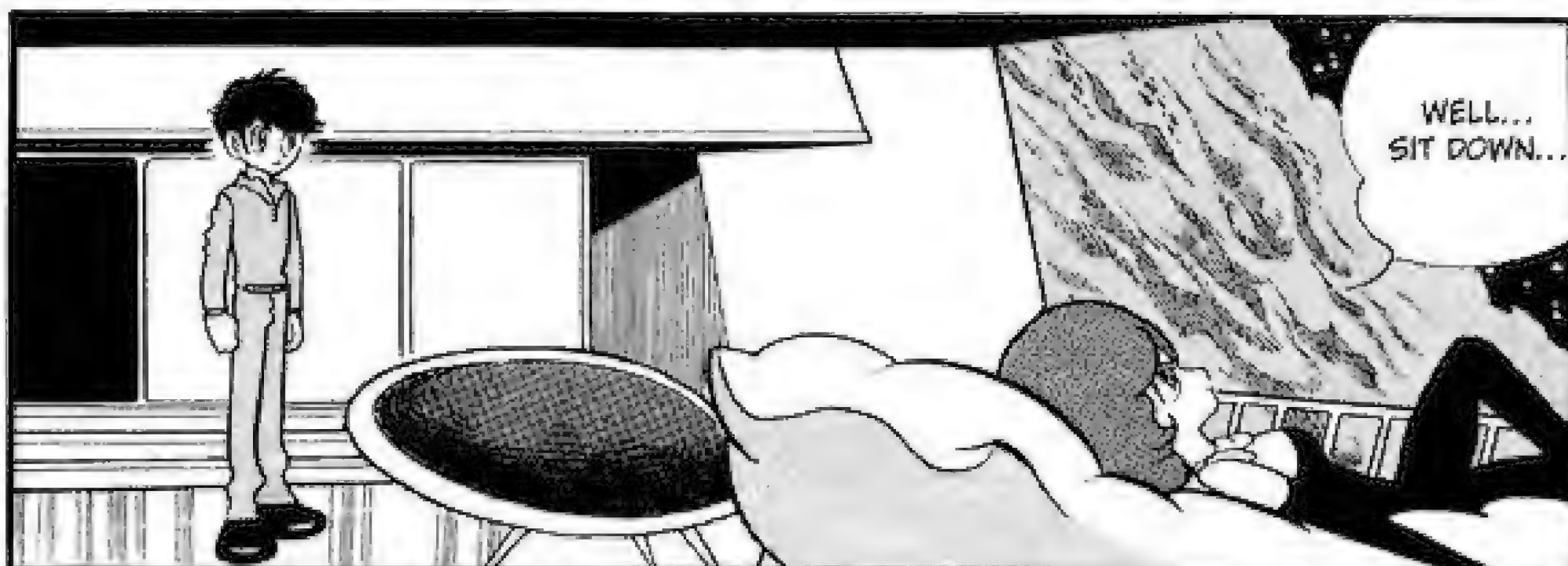


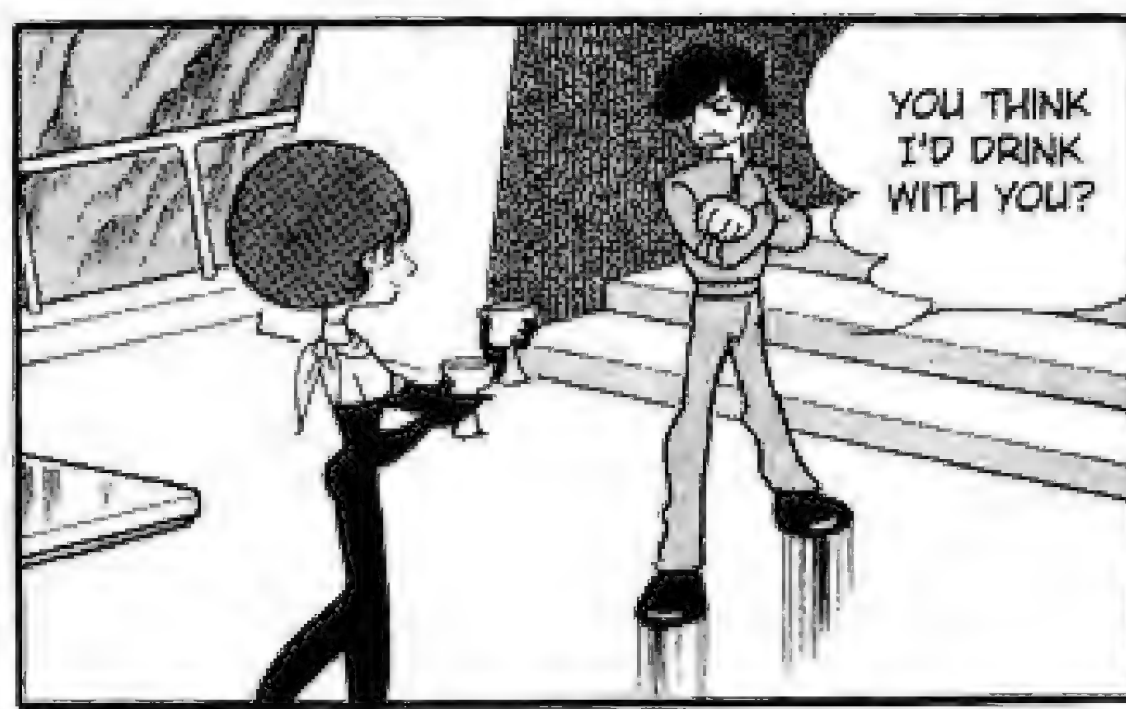
WELL
LISTEN.
I DON'T
NEED THAT
KIND OF
HELP!



WELL...
IF THAT'S
HOW YOU
FEEL...



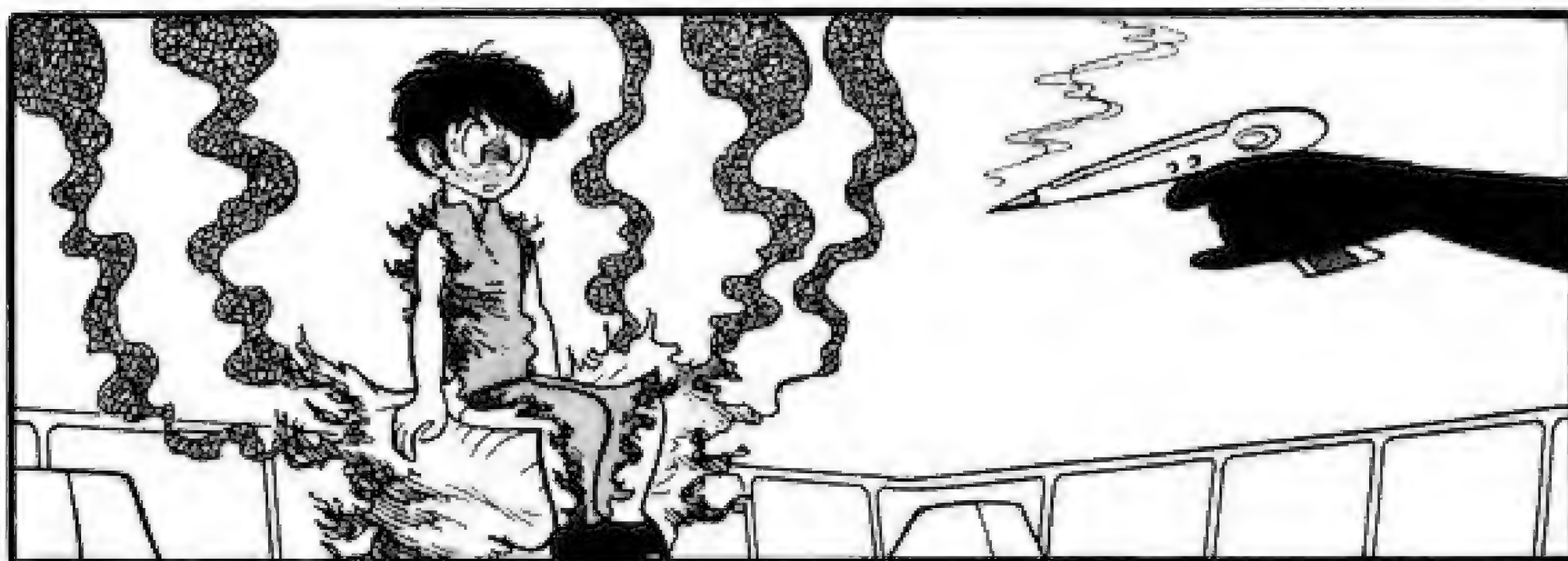




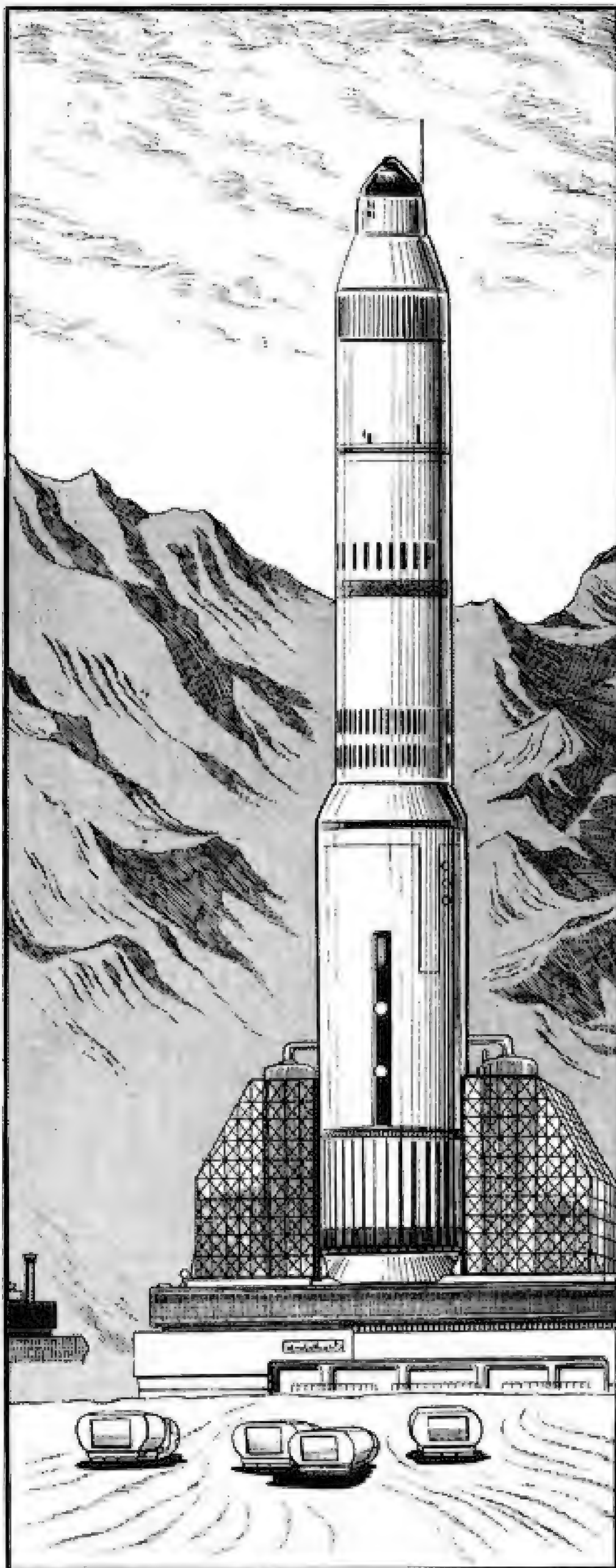
AND I'VE
PERSONALLY
KILLED OVER
TEN OR TWENTY
YOUNG FOOLS
LIKE YOU...



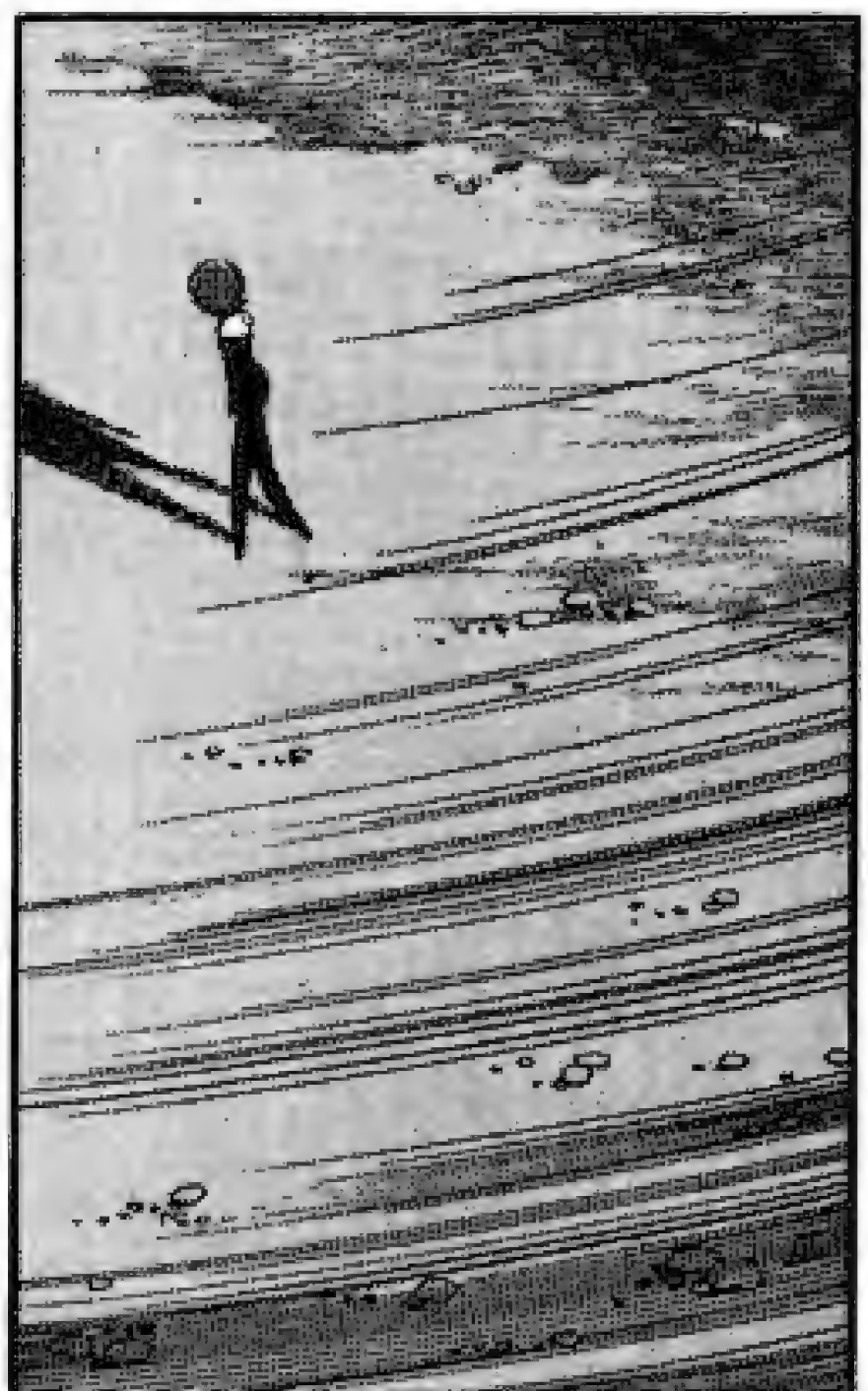
THEN
WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR?

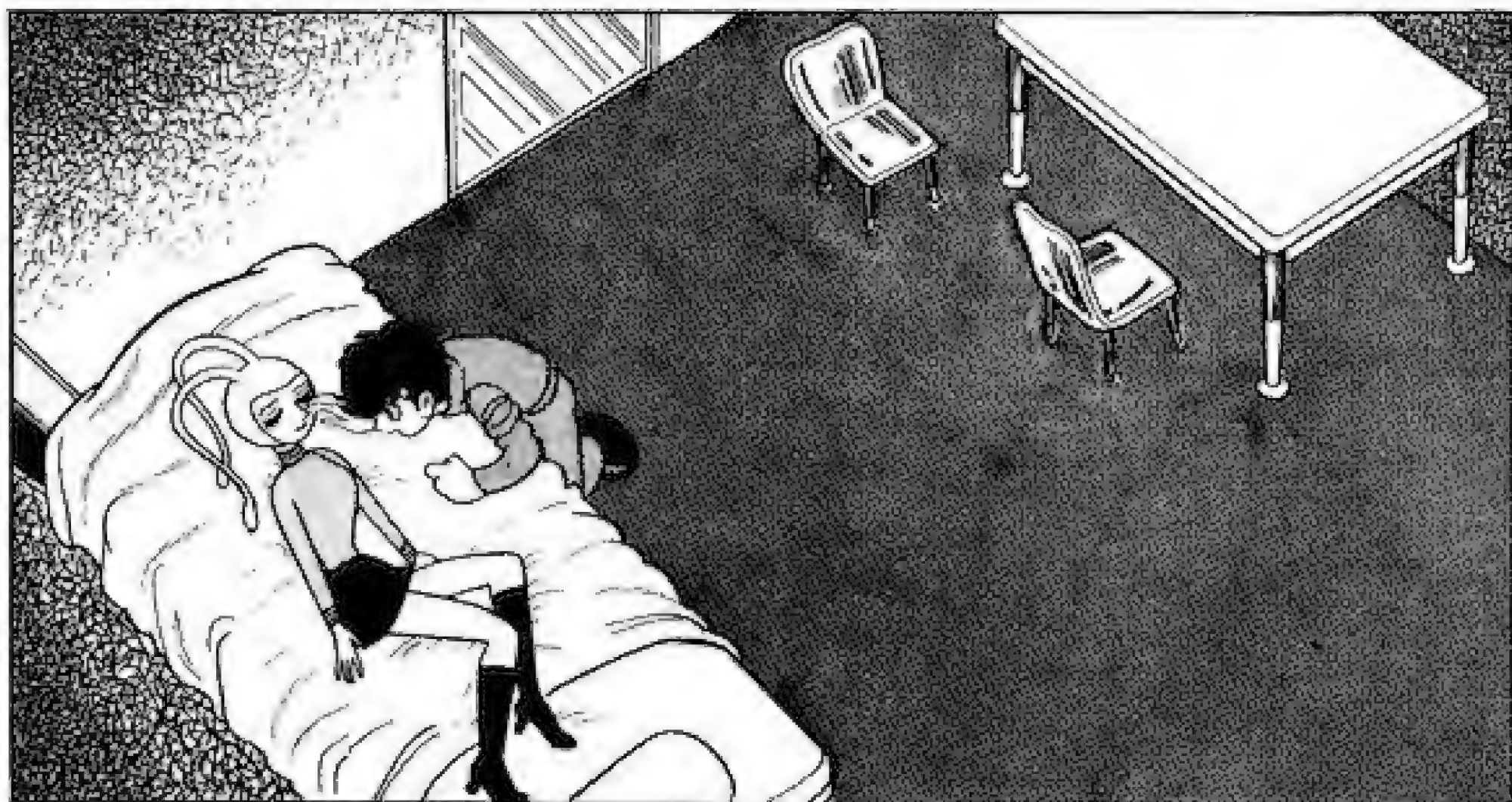


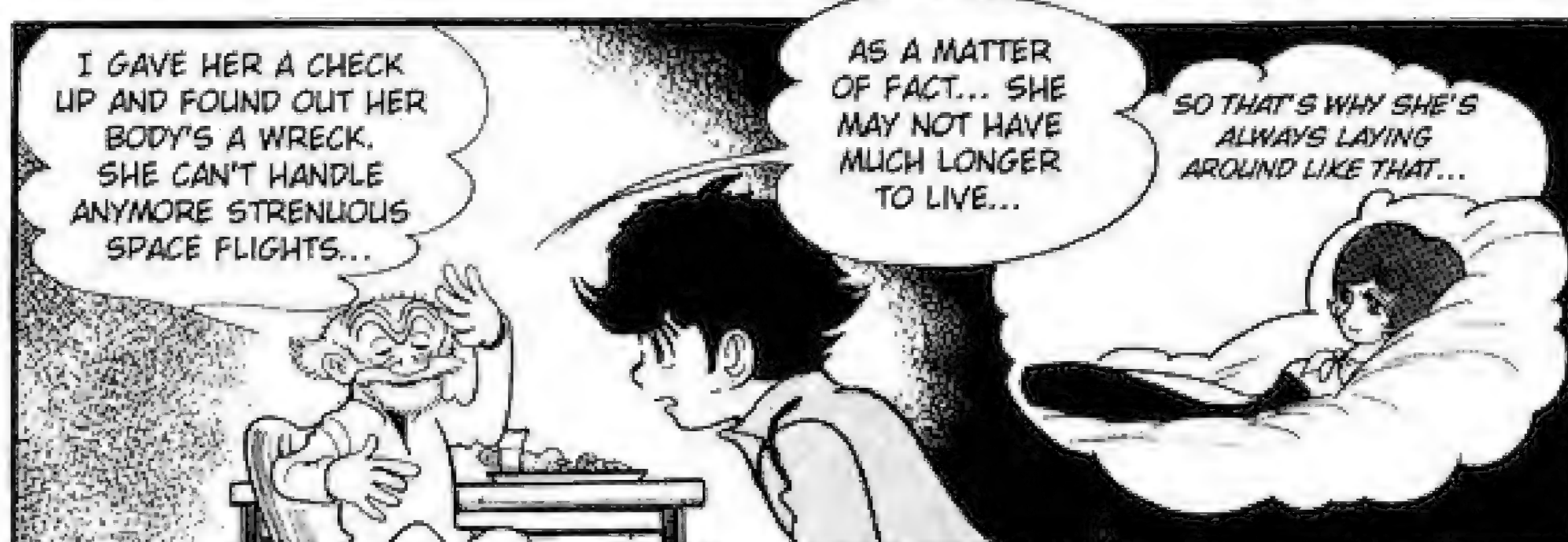
NO...
I WON'T
KILL YOU
AND YOU'LL
FIND OUT
WHY SOON...

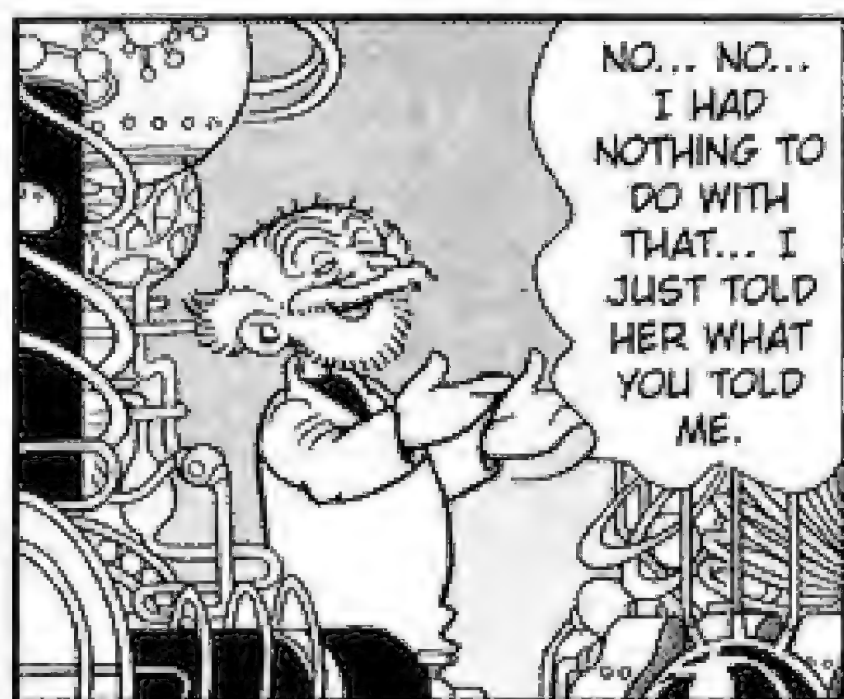
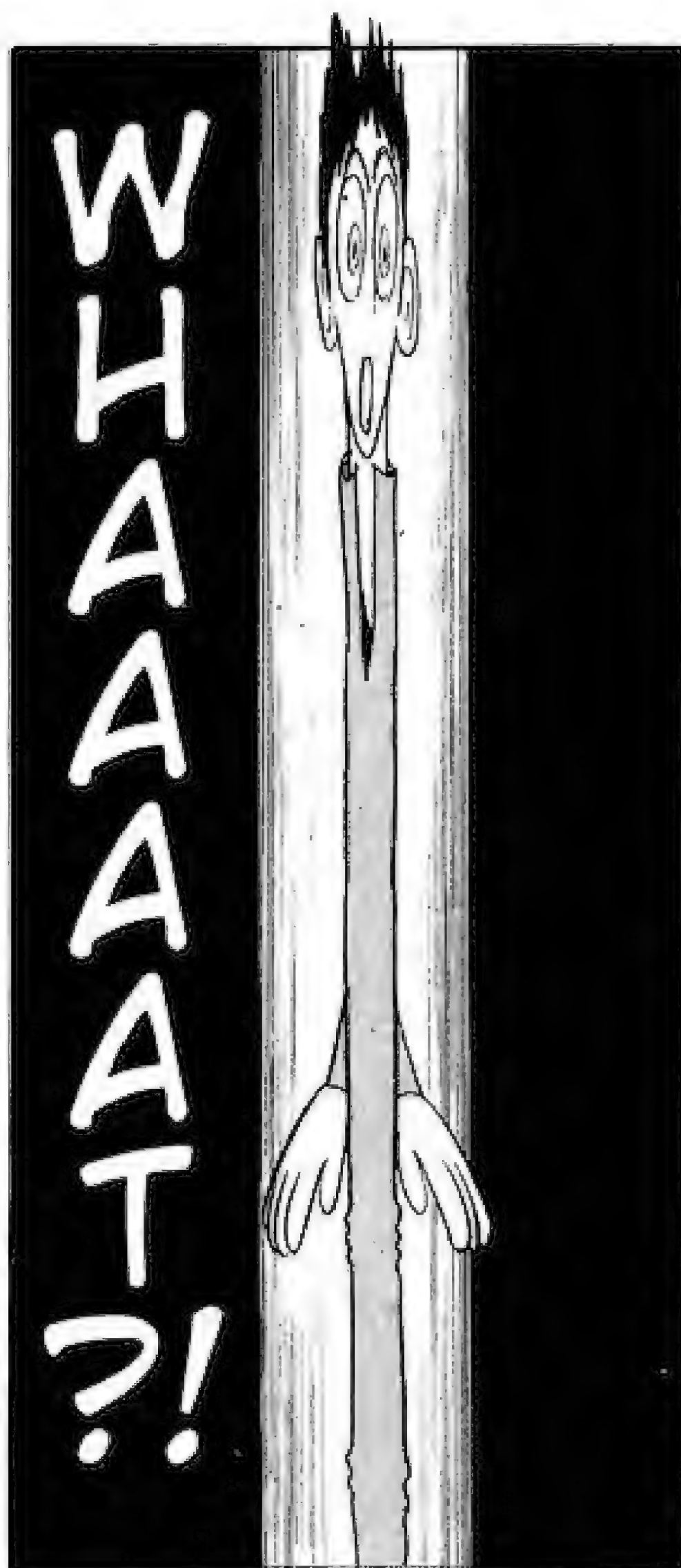


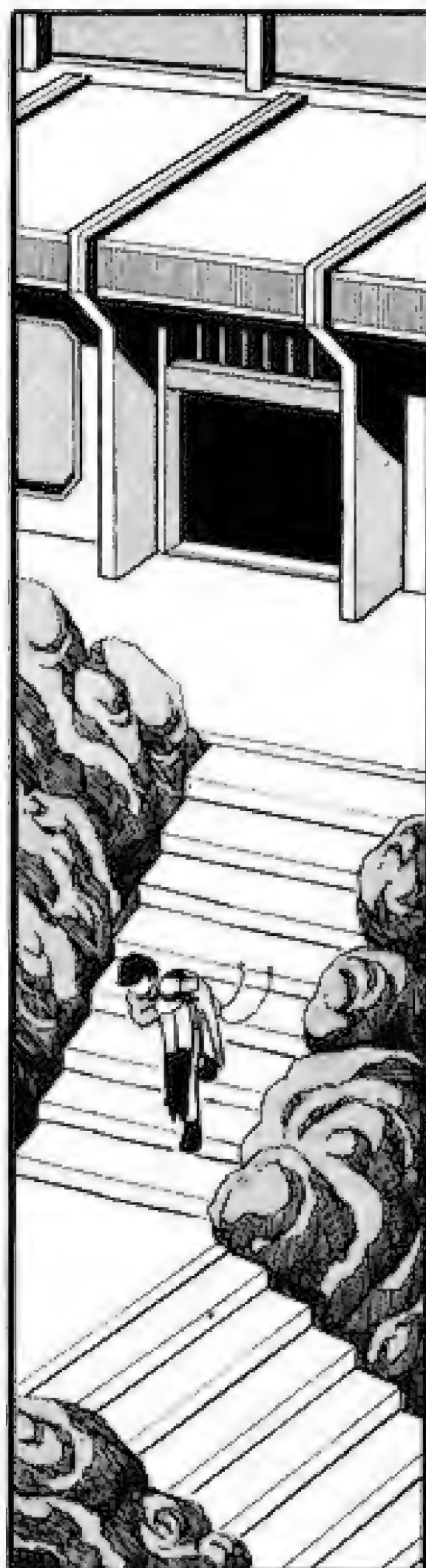


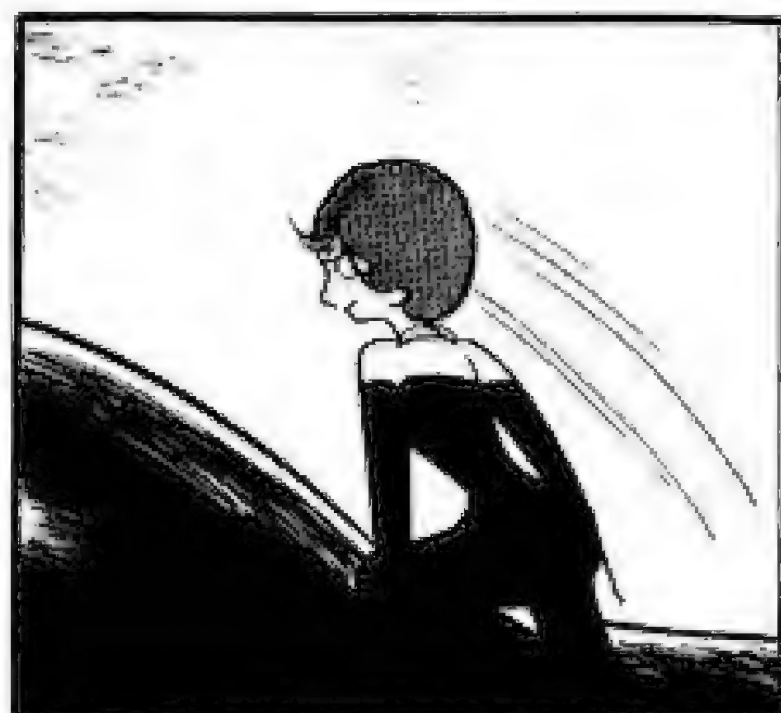
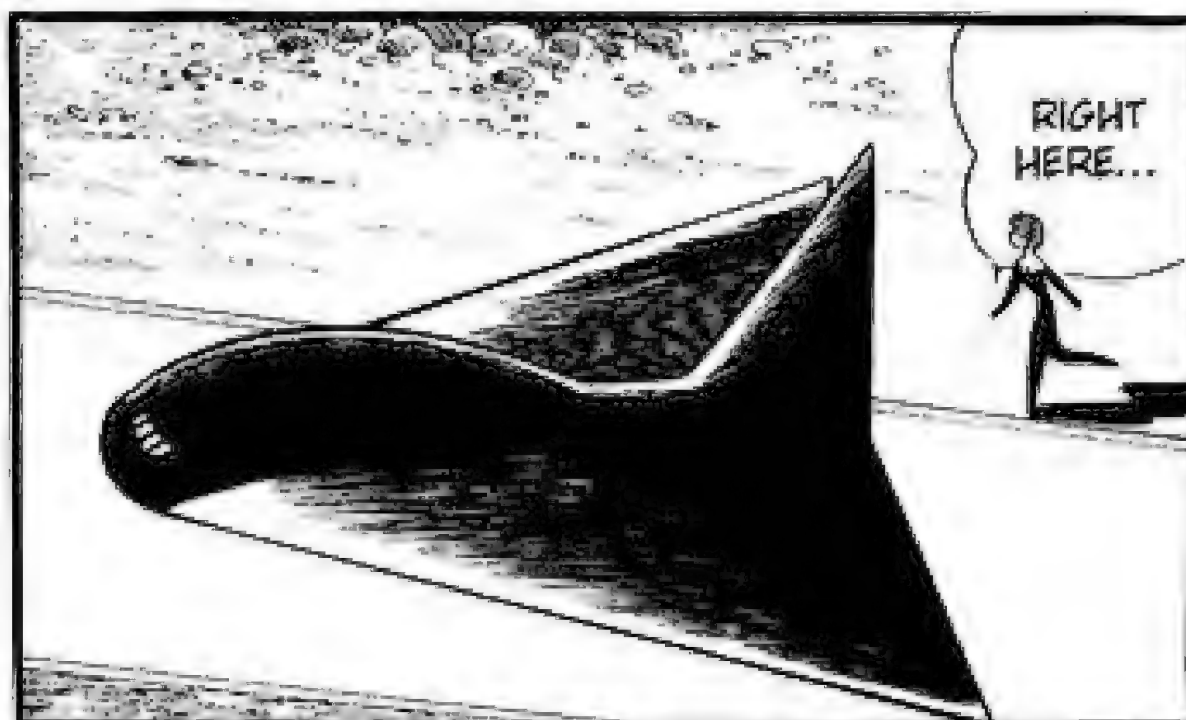


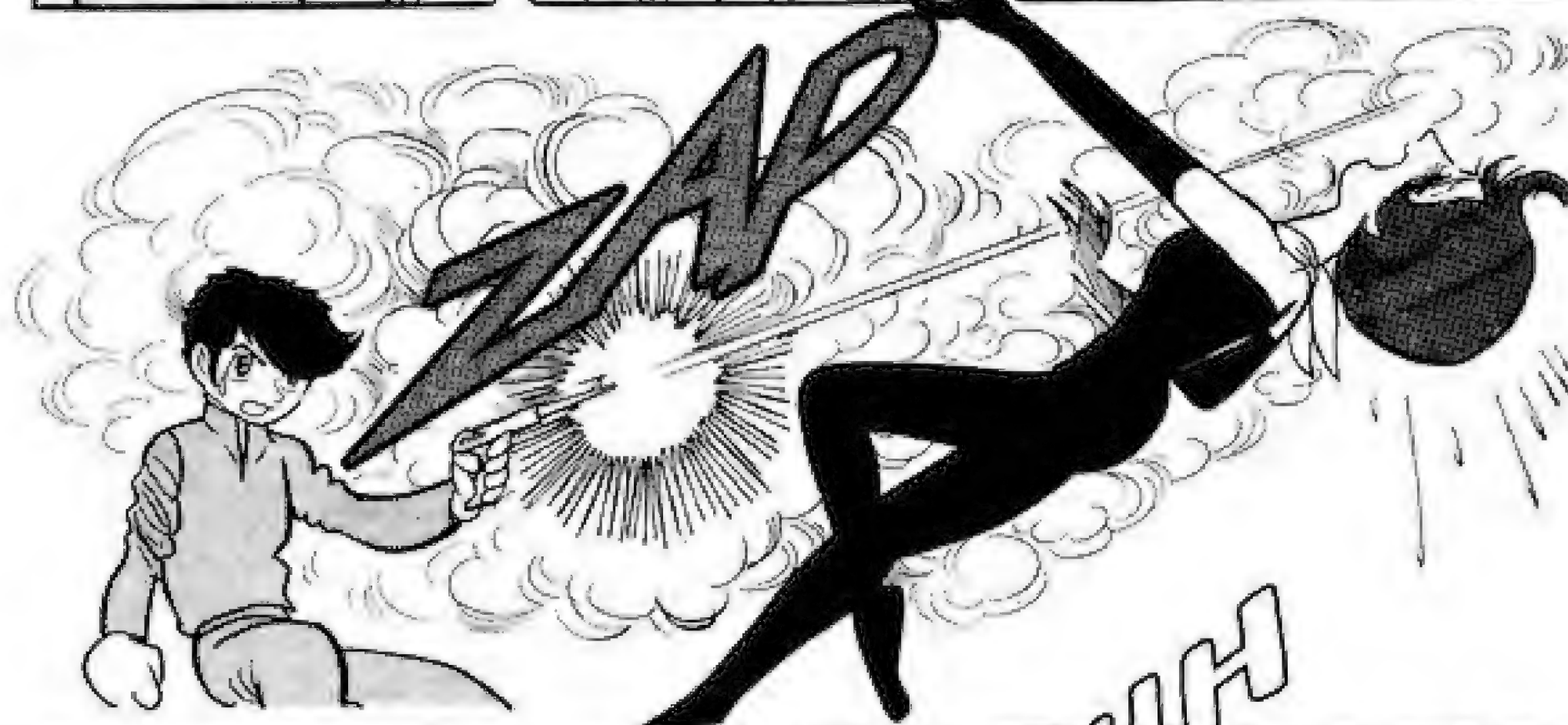


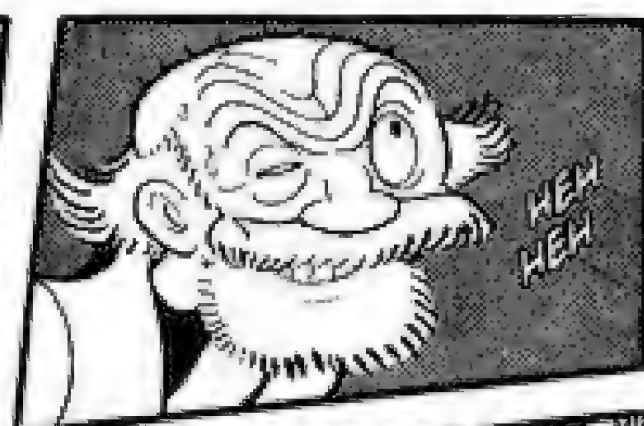






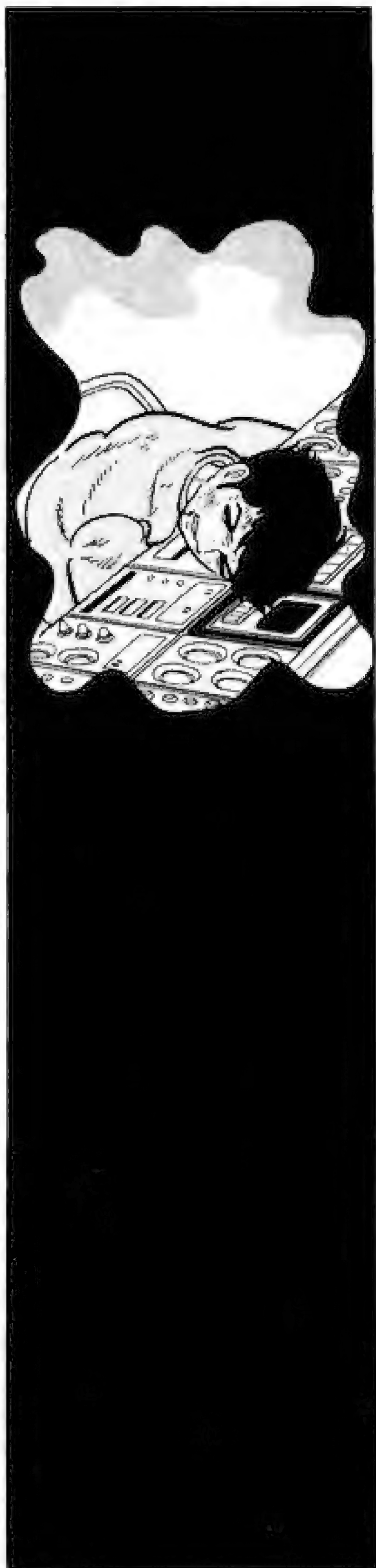


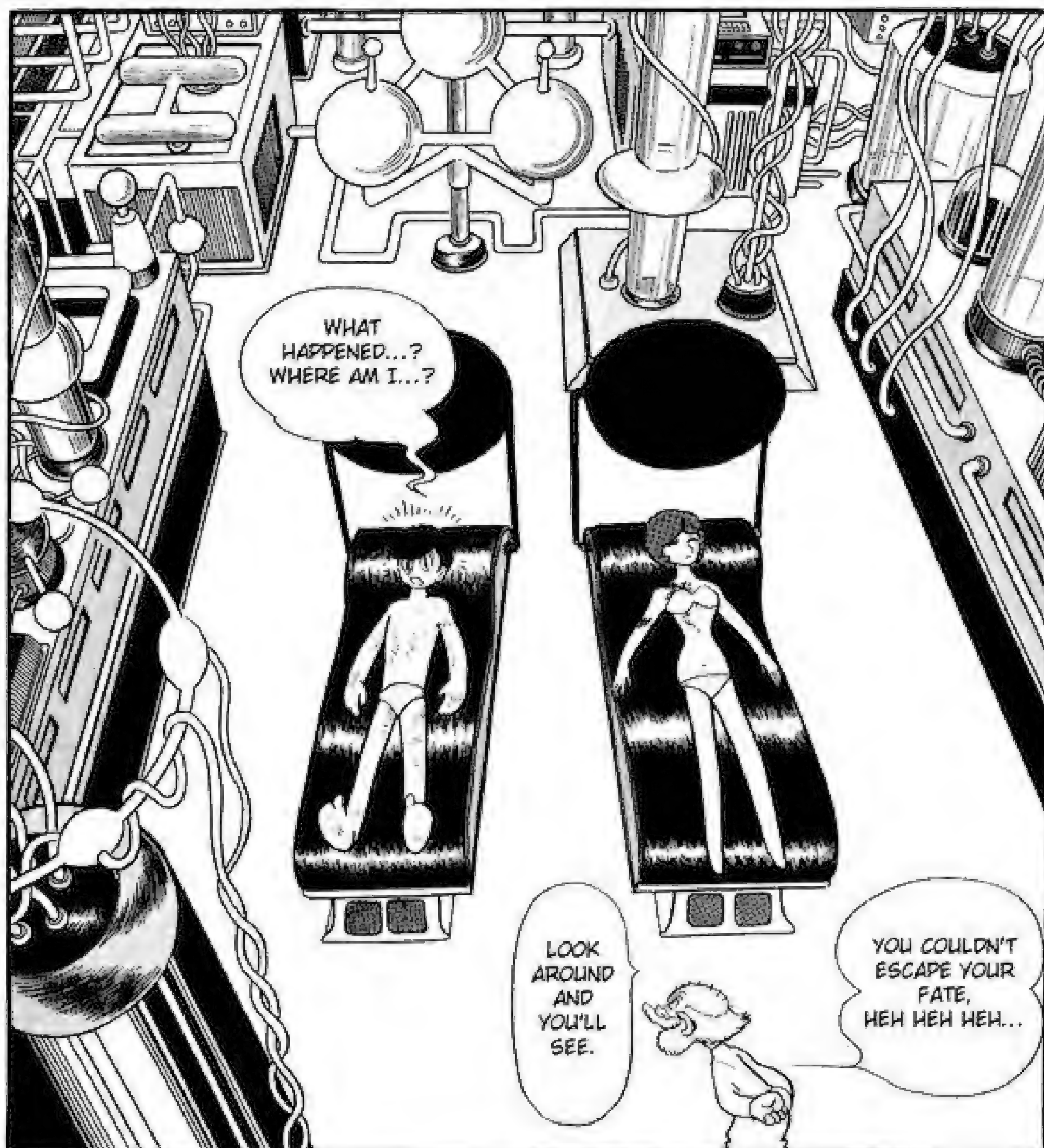
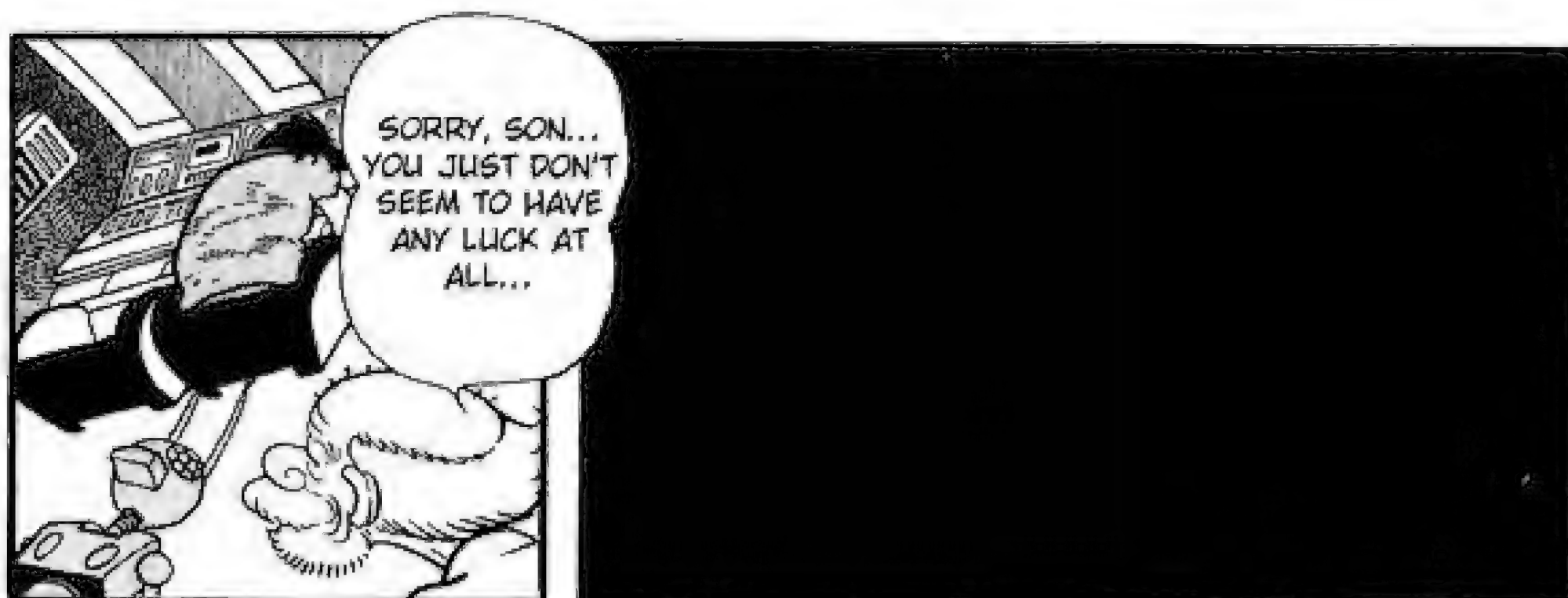










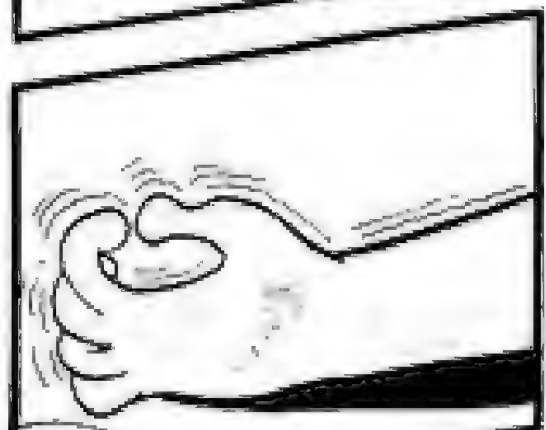




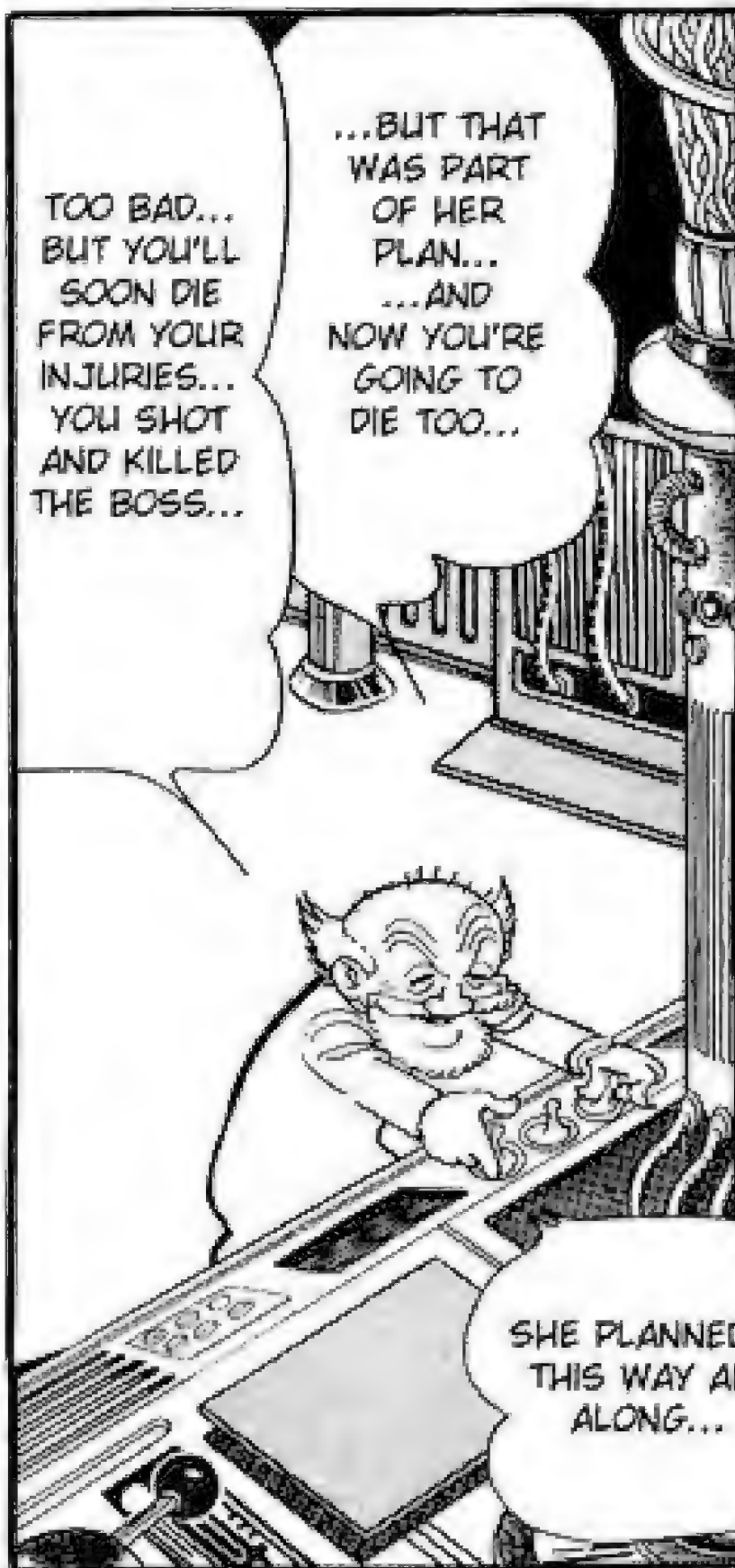
AM I HURT
BADLY?



AGGH
...



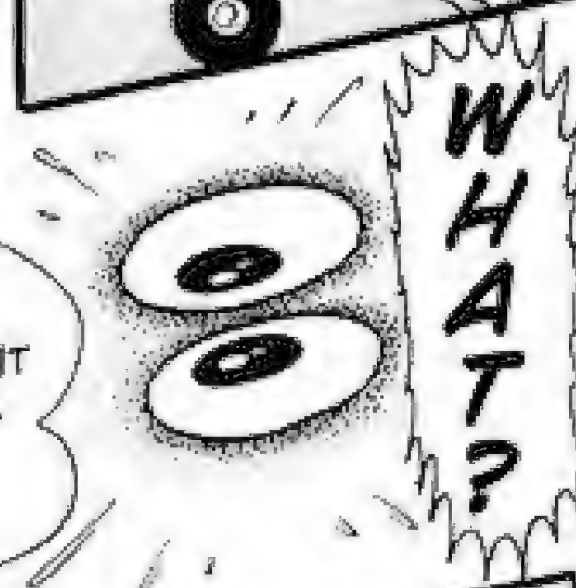
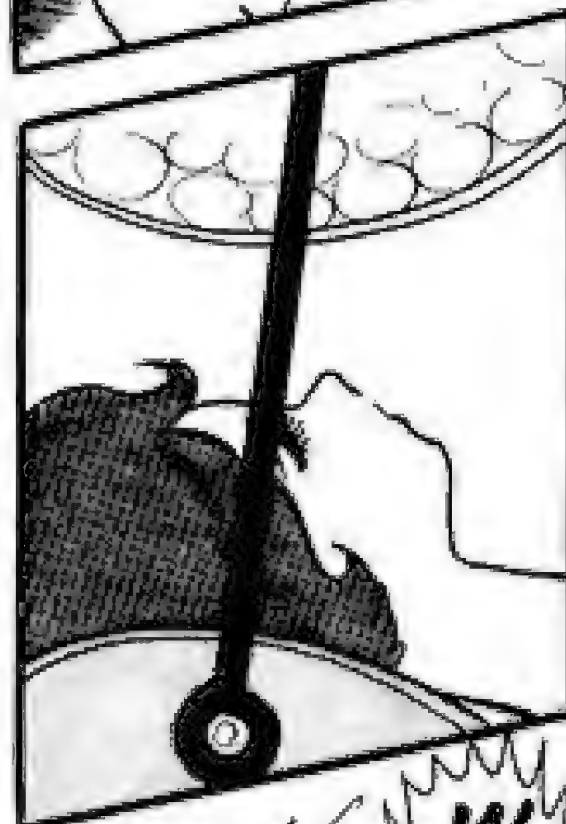
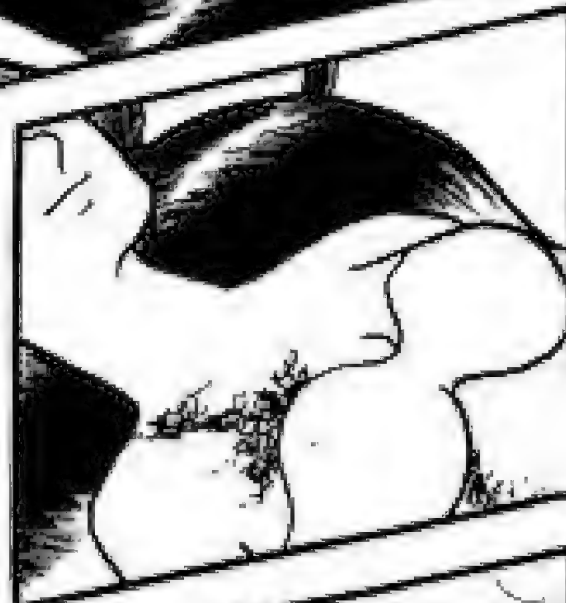
IT'S
NO
USE...
I
CAN'T
MOVE...



TOO BAD...
BUT YOU'LL
SOON DIE
FROM YOUR
INJURIES...
YOU SHOT
AND KILLED
THE BOSS...

...BUT THAT
WAS PART
OF HER
PLAN...
...AND
NOW YOU'RE
GOING TO
DIE TOO...

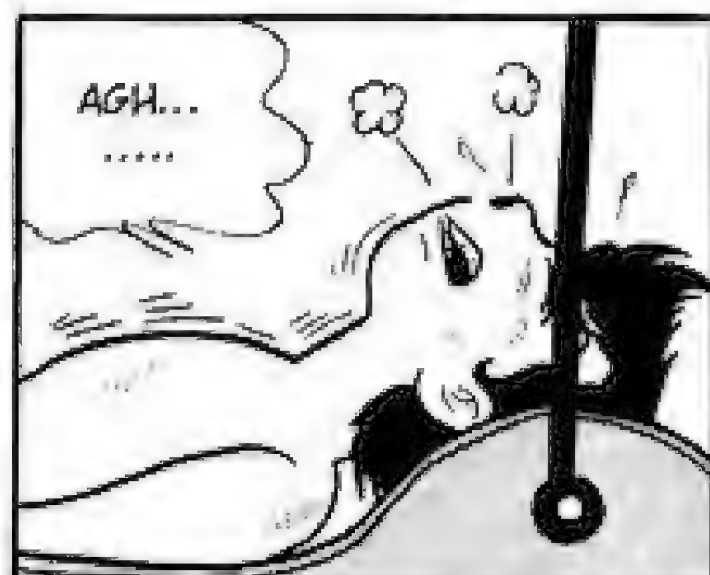
SHE PLANNED IT
THIS WAY ALL
ALONG...

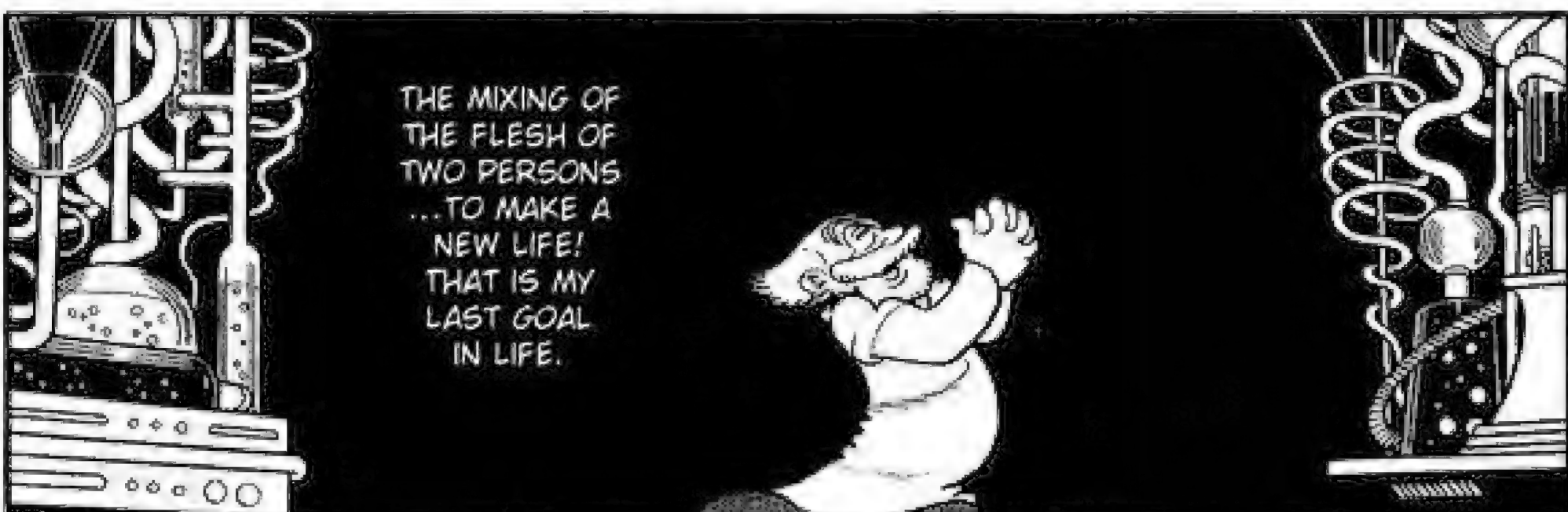
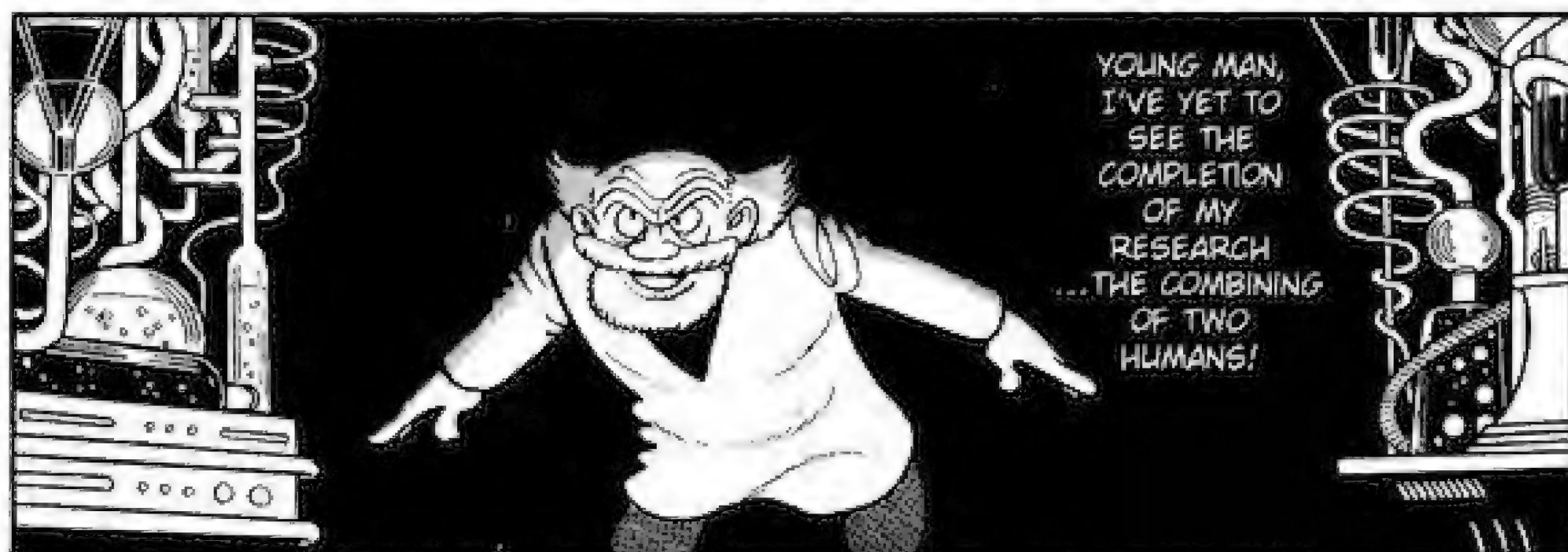


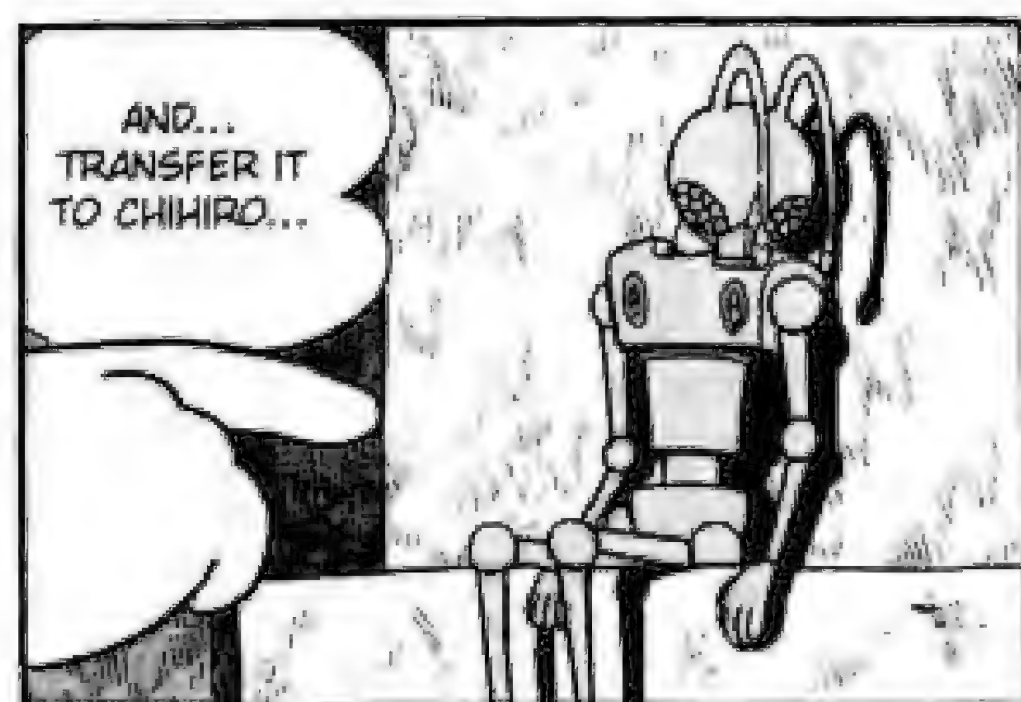
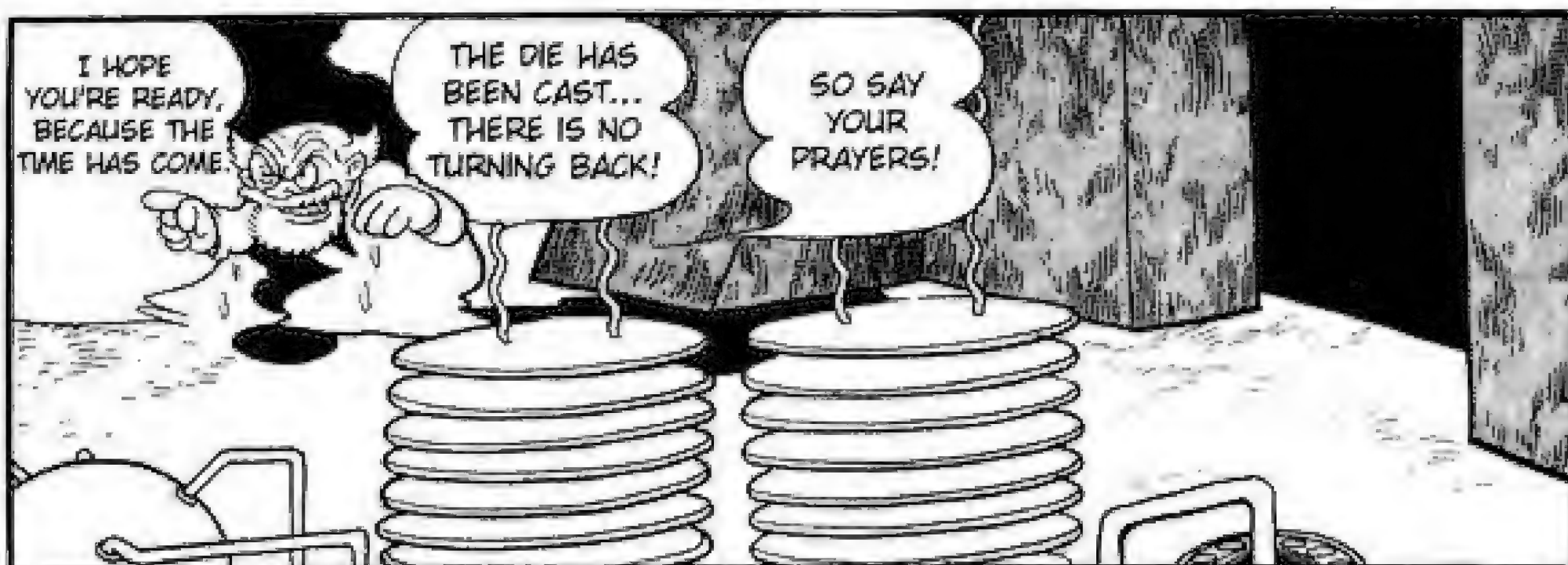
SHE PLANNED BOTH
OF OUR DEATHS? WHY?
WHAT ON EARTH WOULD
MAKE HER DO THAT?

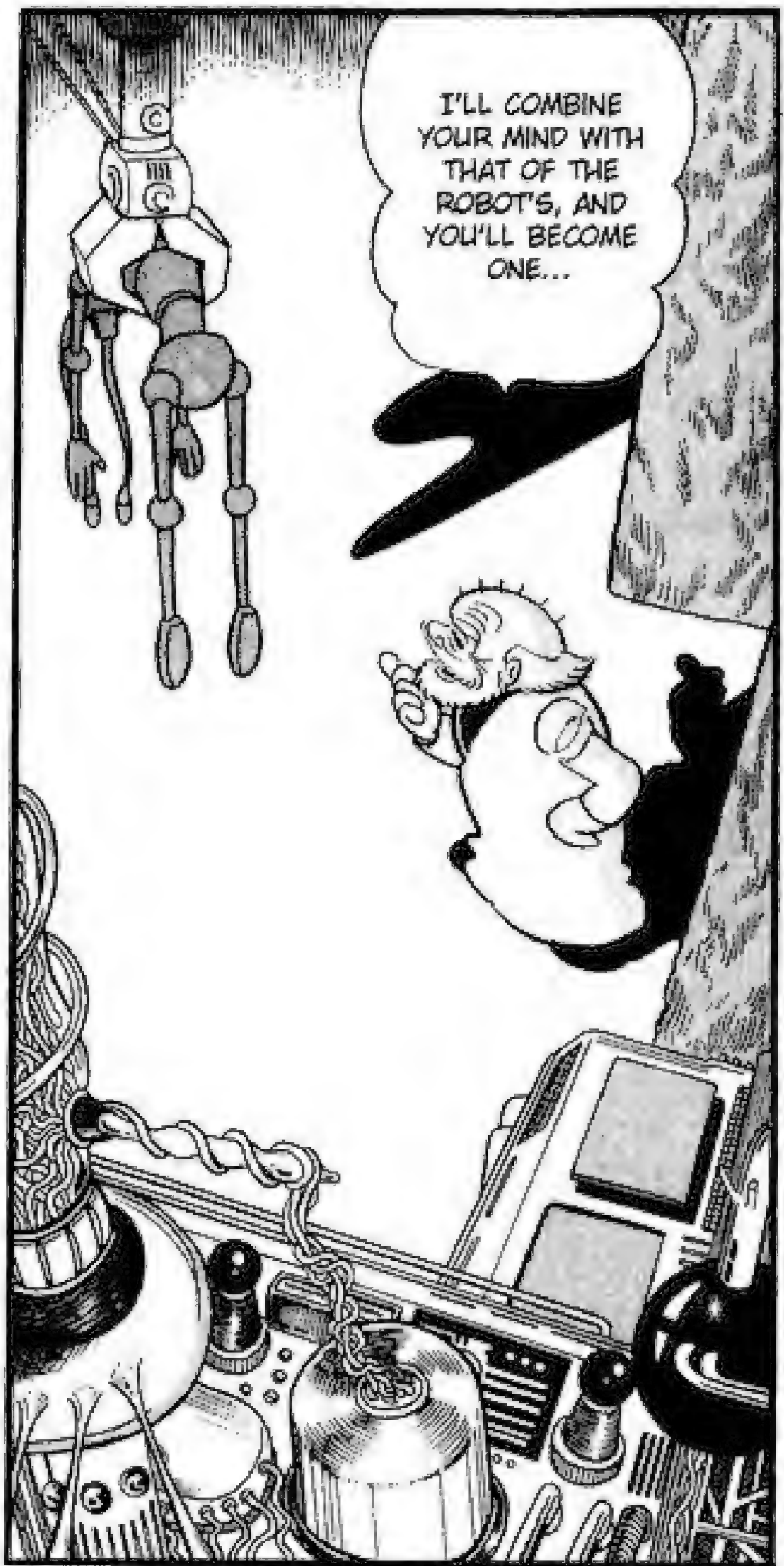
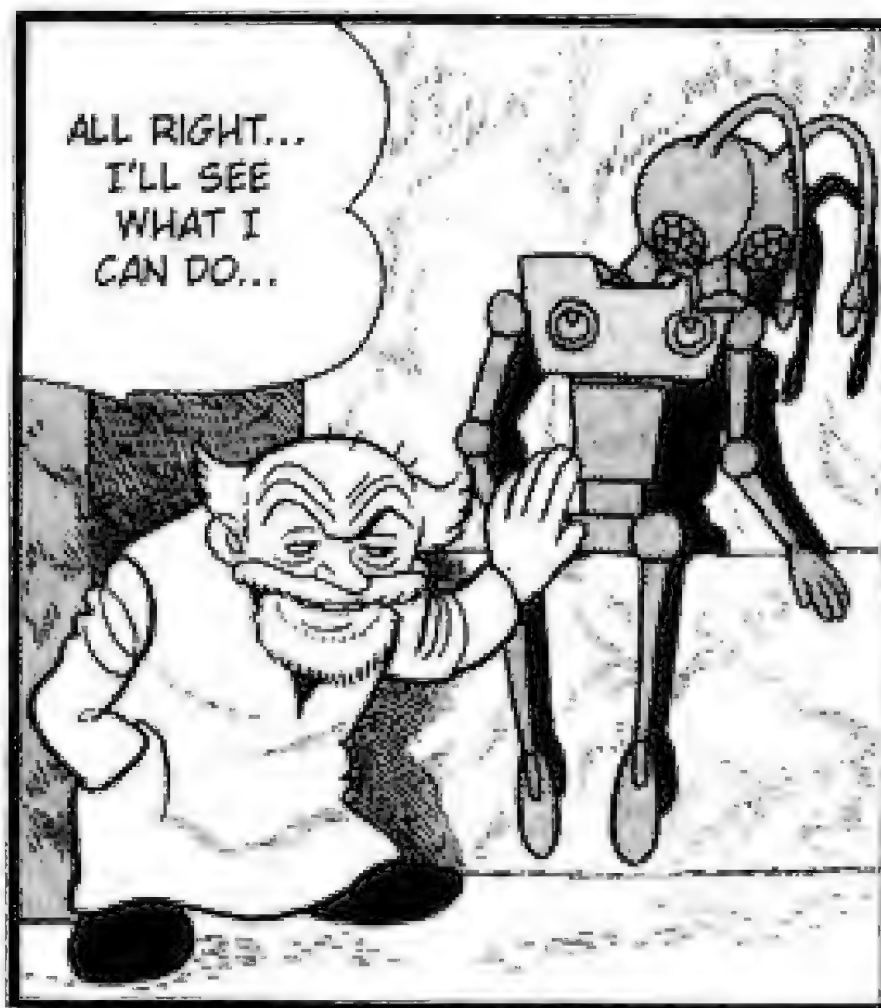
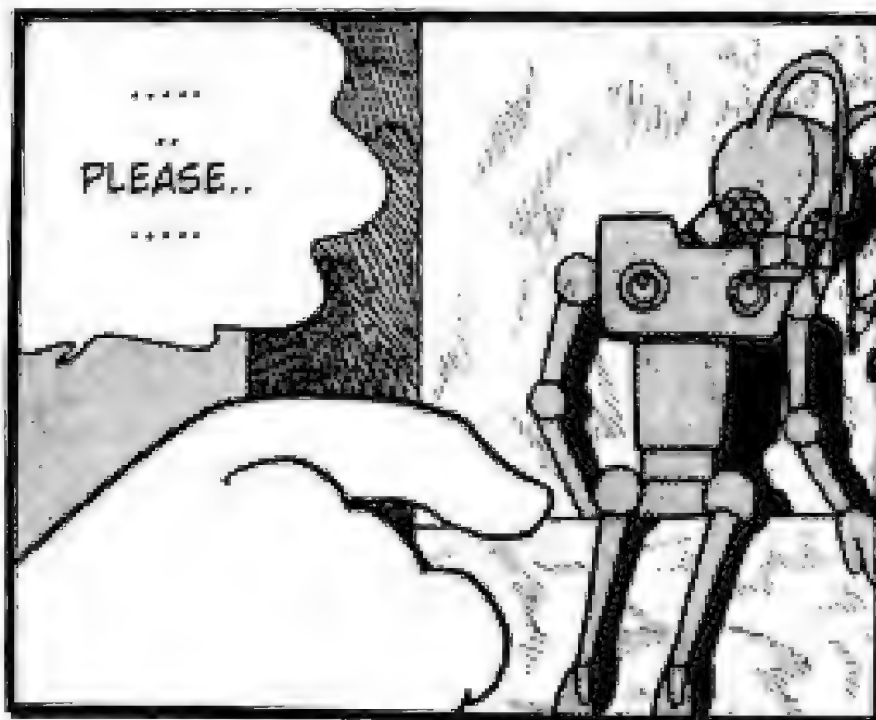


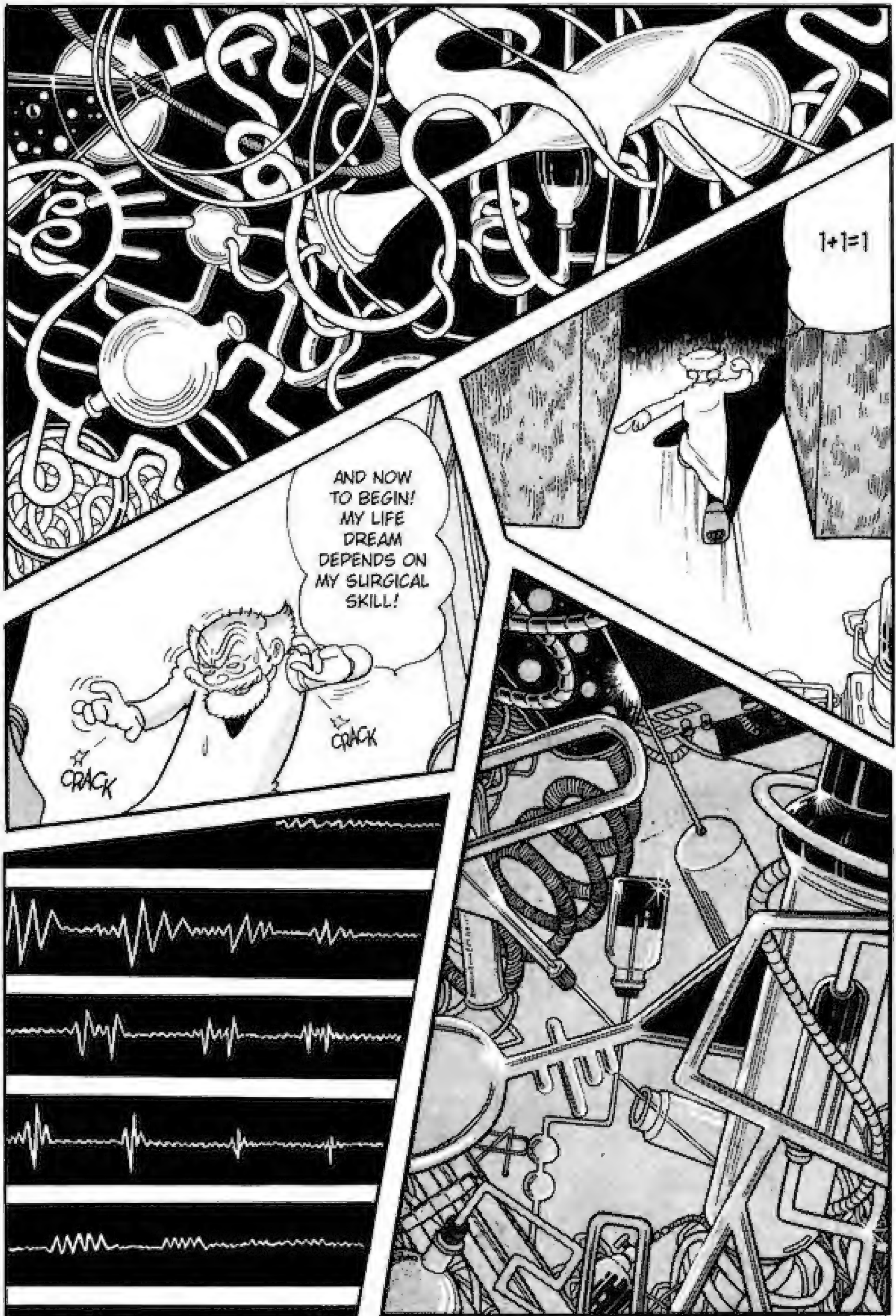
DIDN'T I TELL YOU,
YOUNG ONE, THAT
SHE REALLY
LOVED YOU?

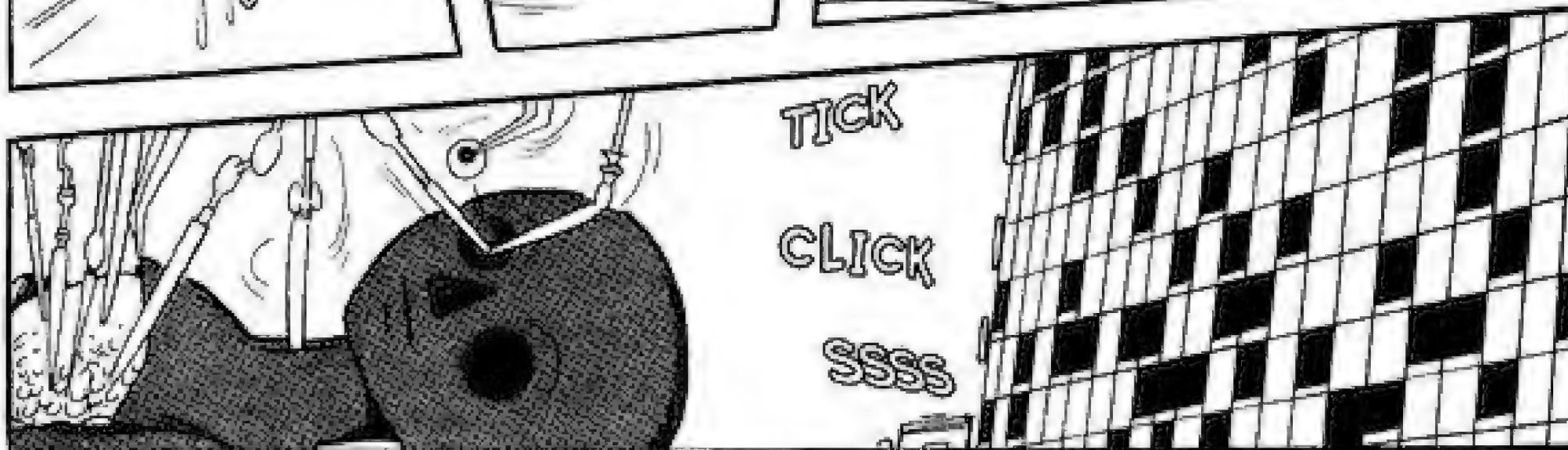
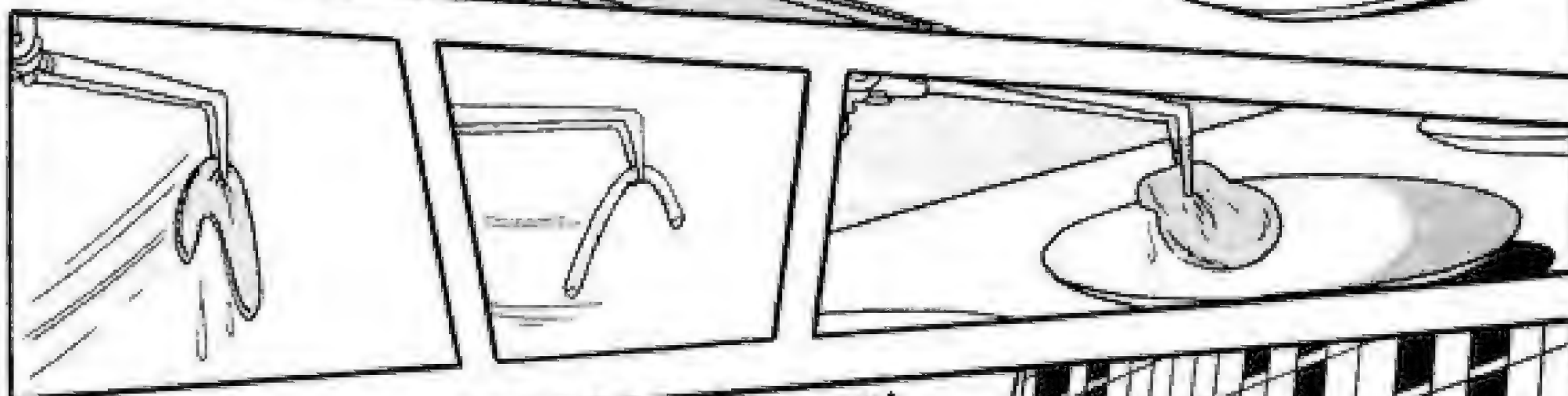
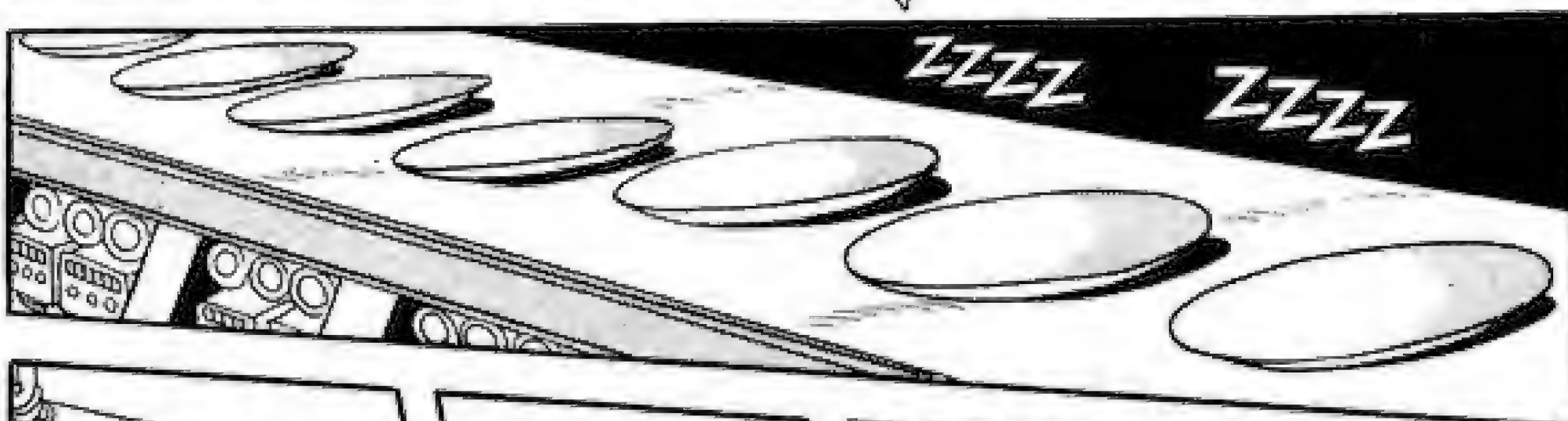
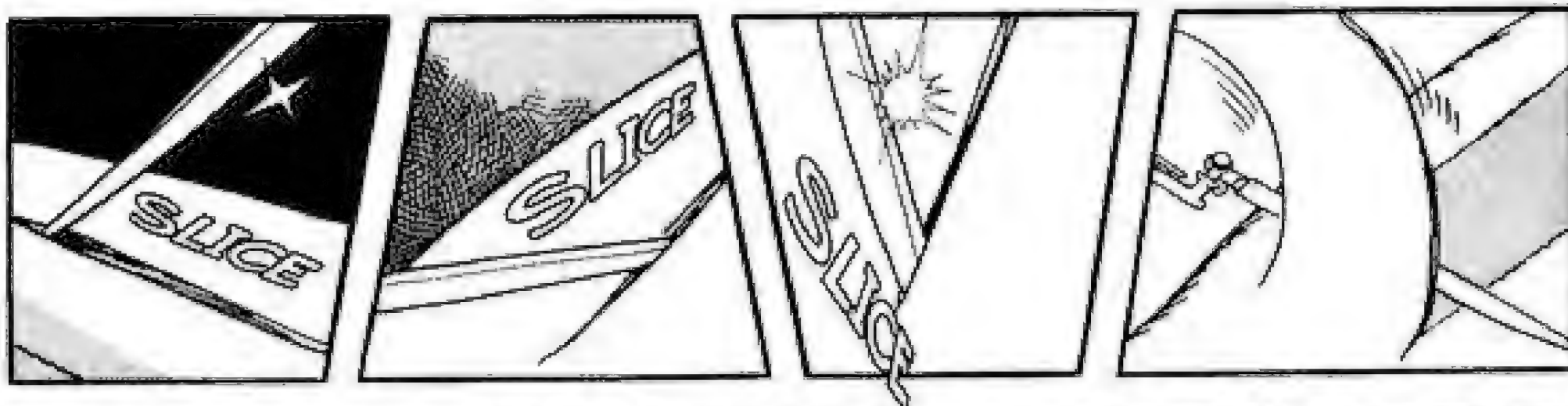
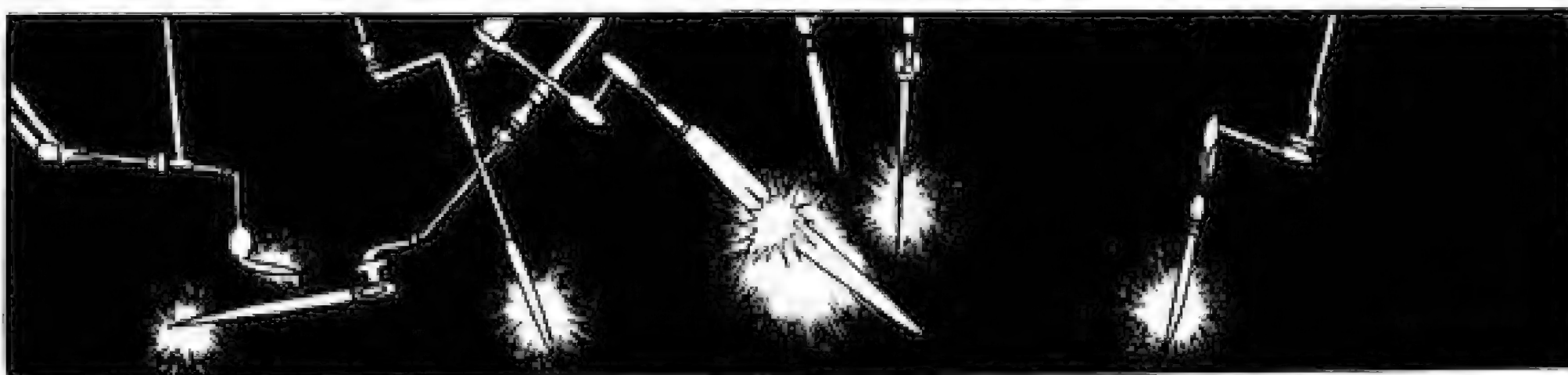
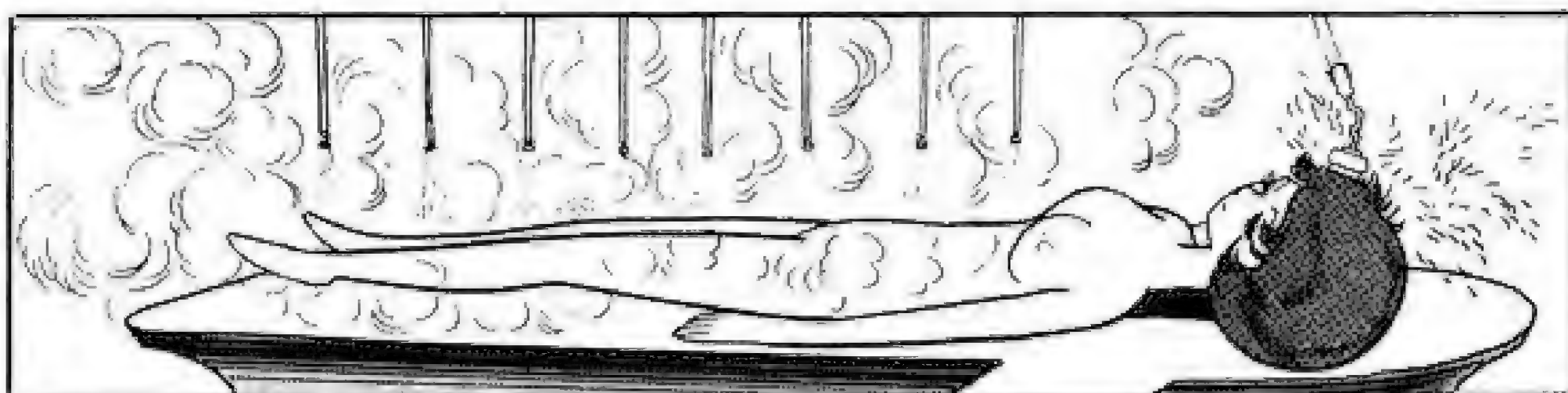


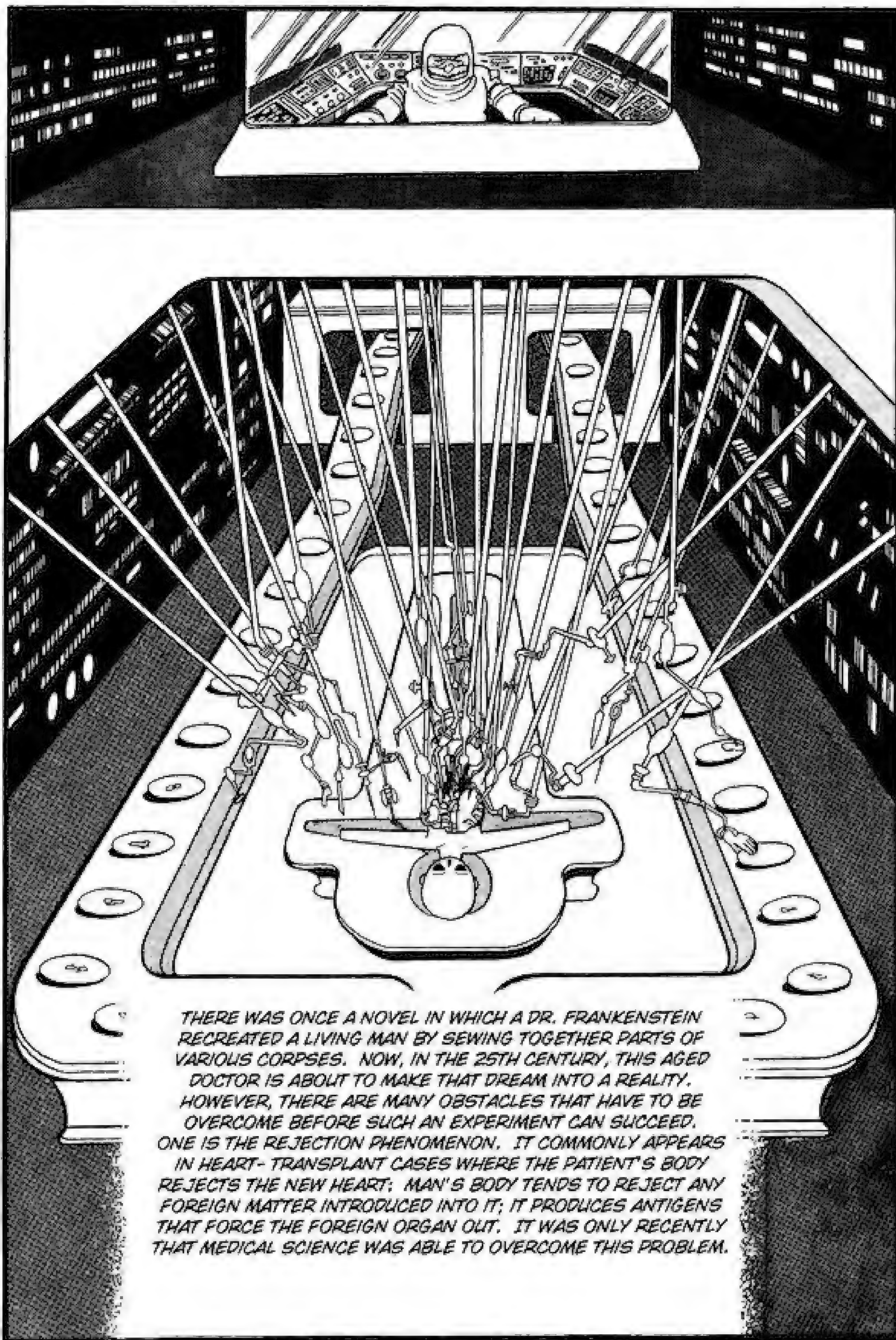




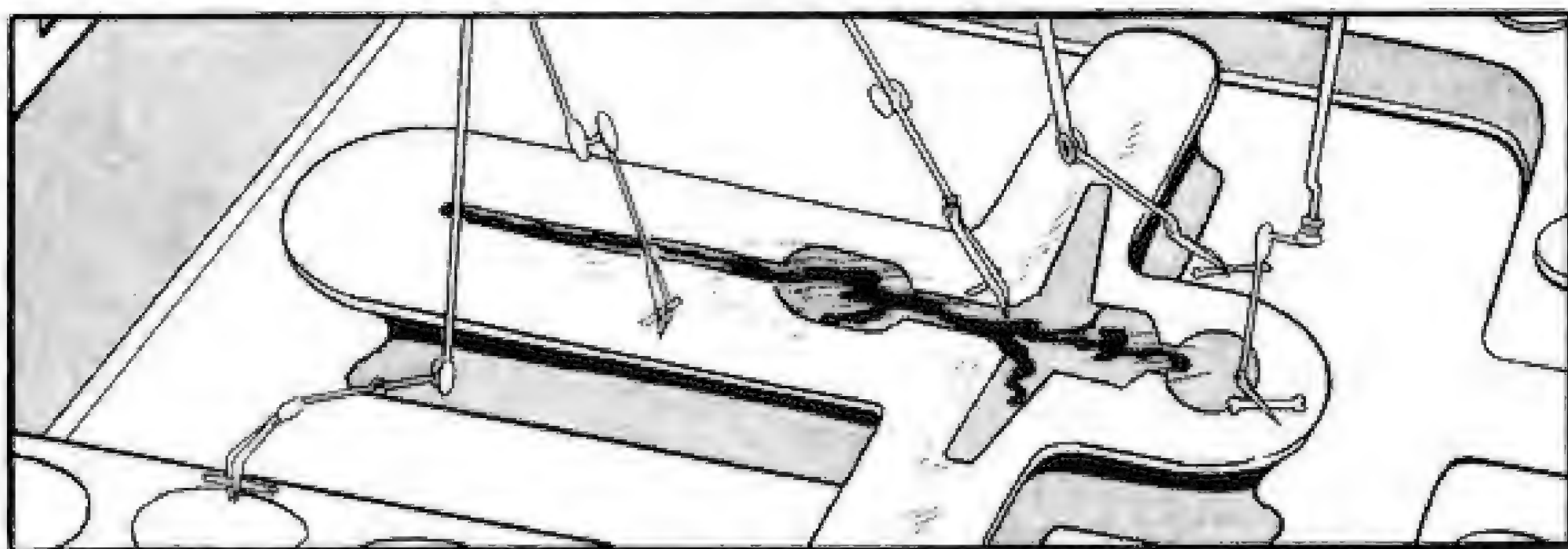
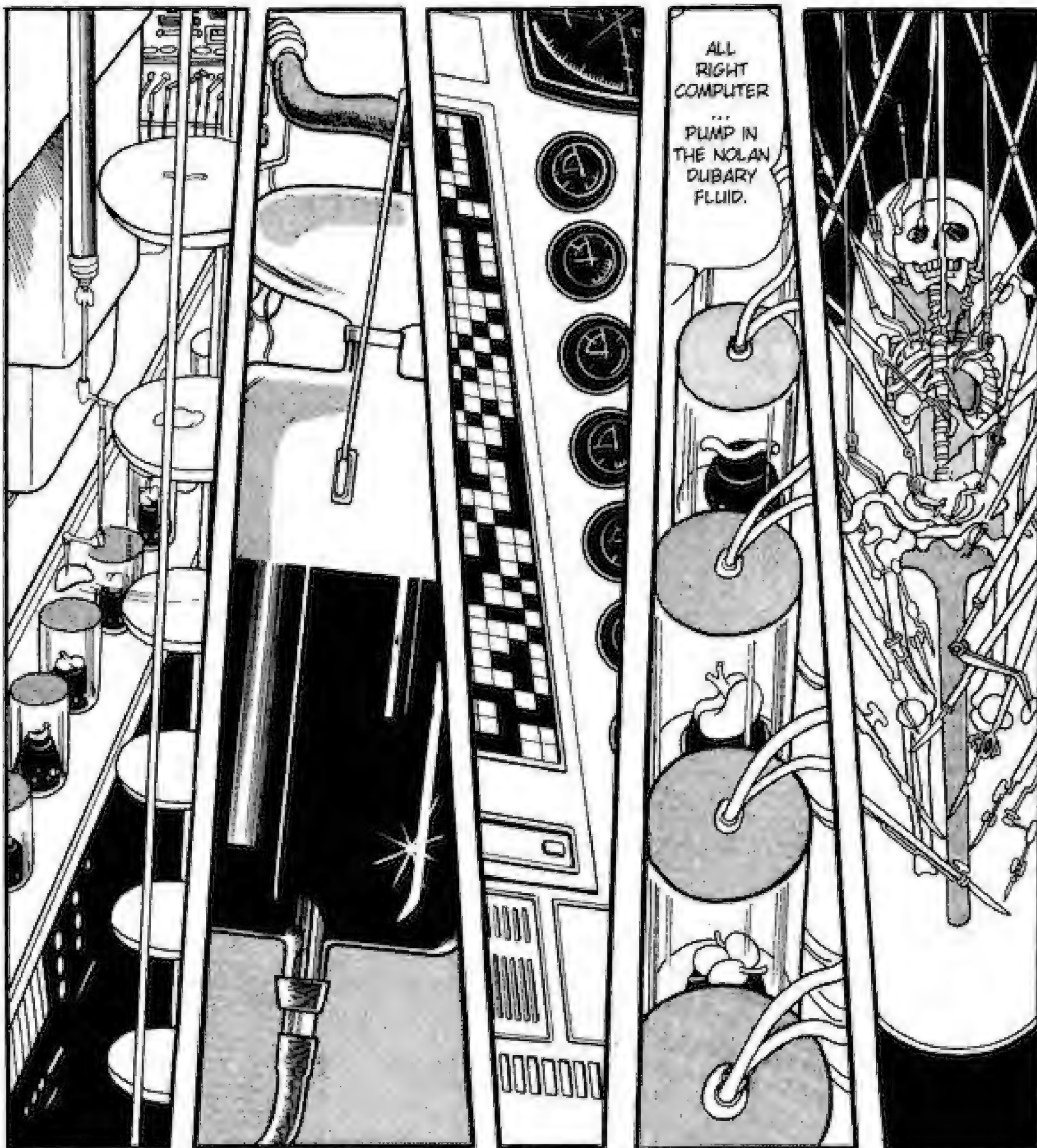


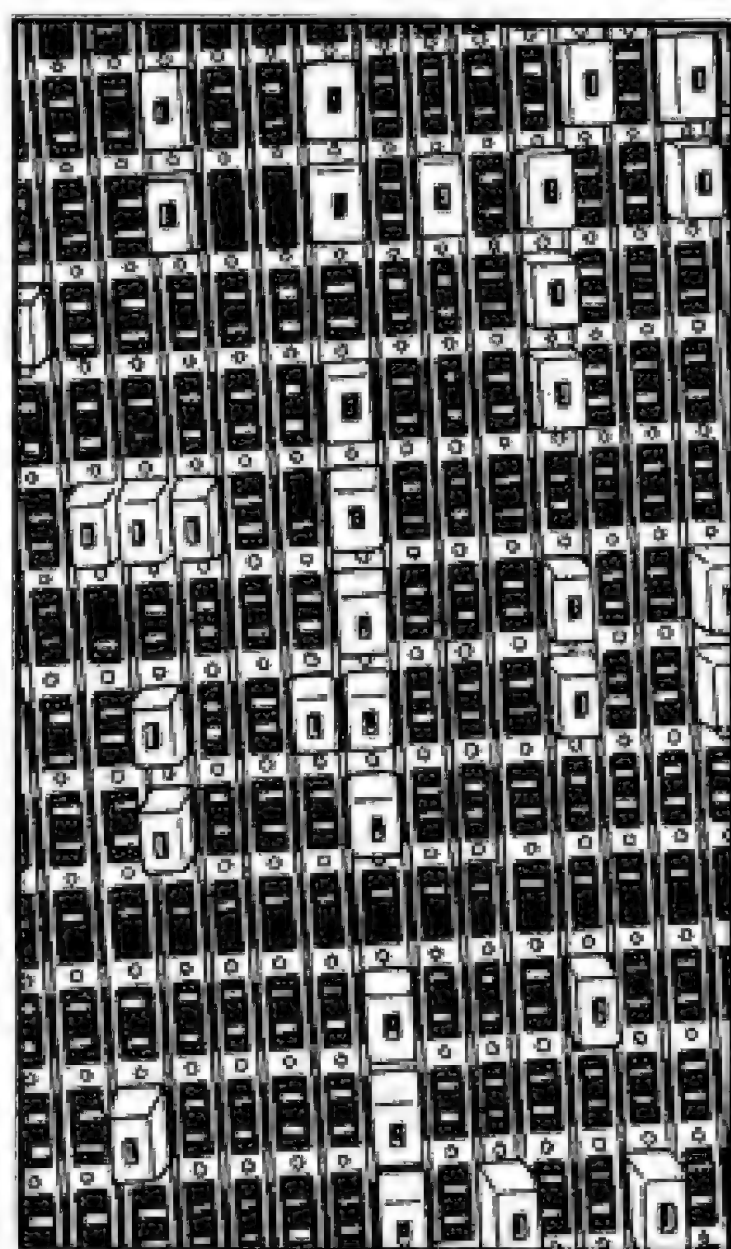
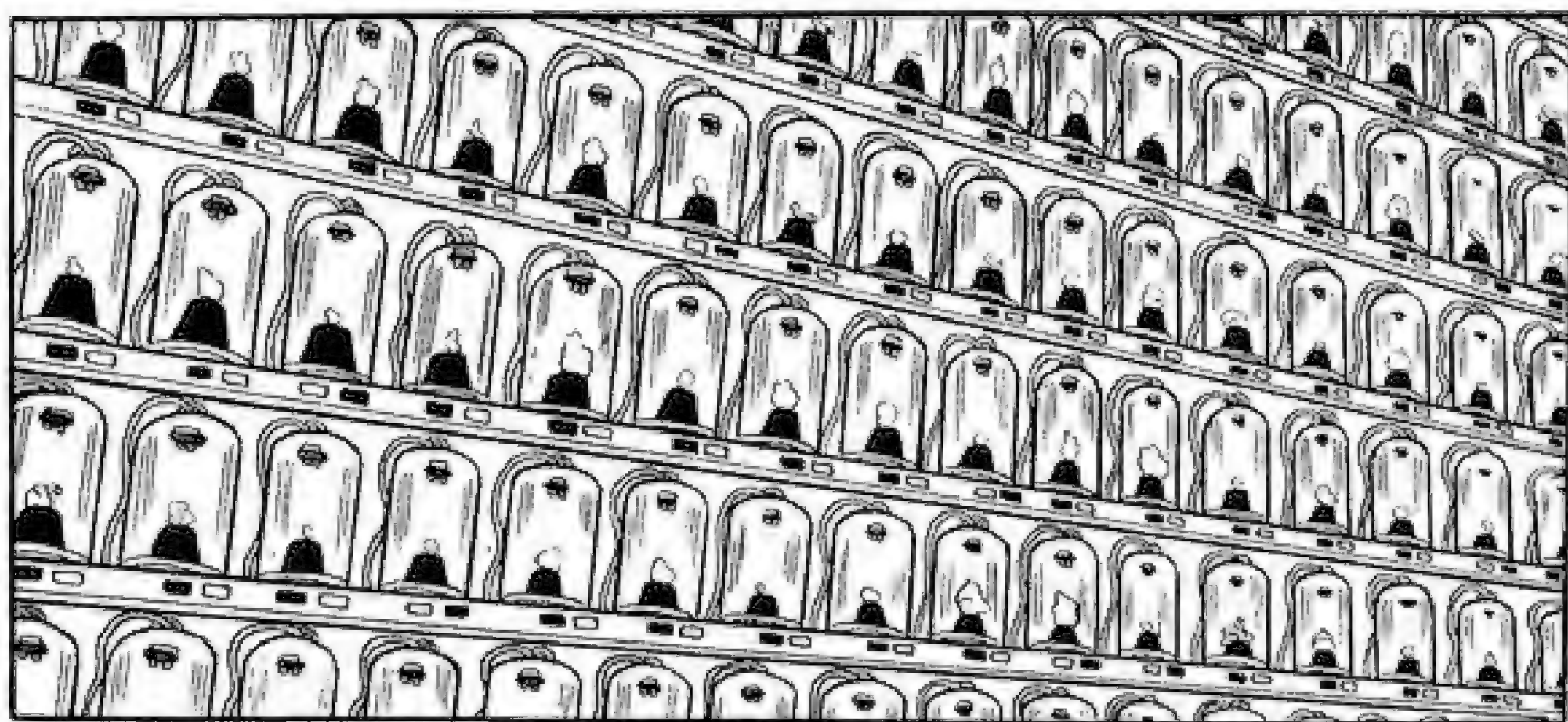
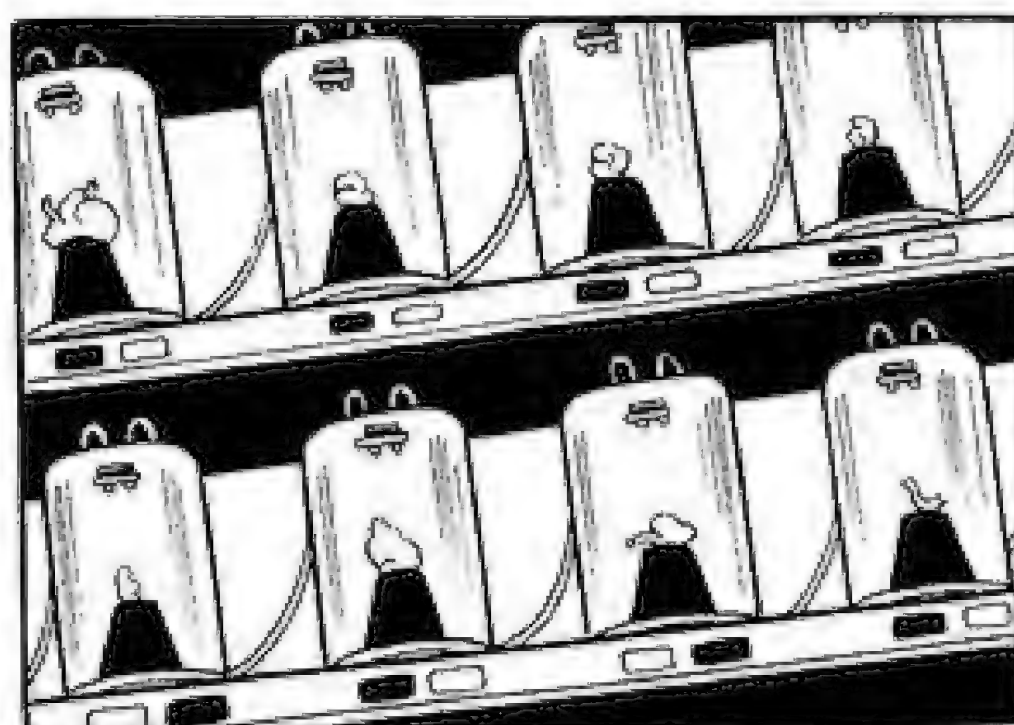
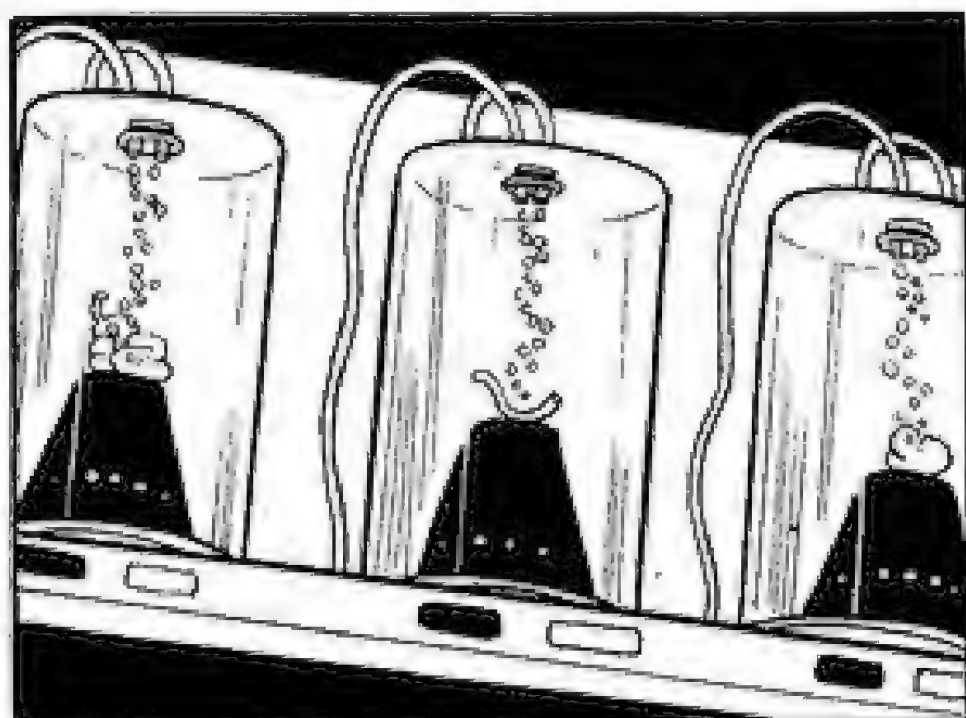




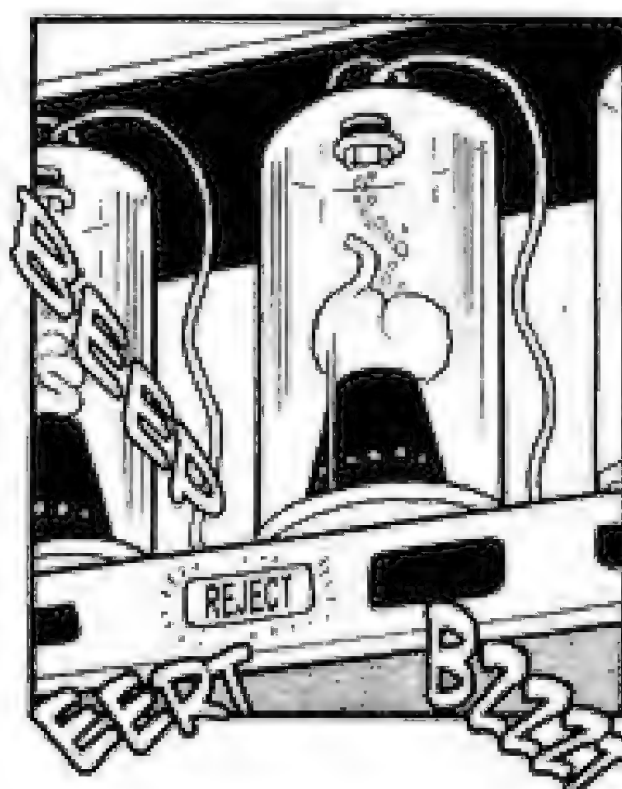


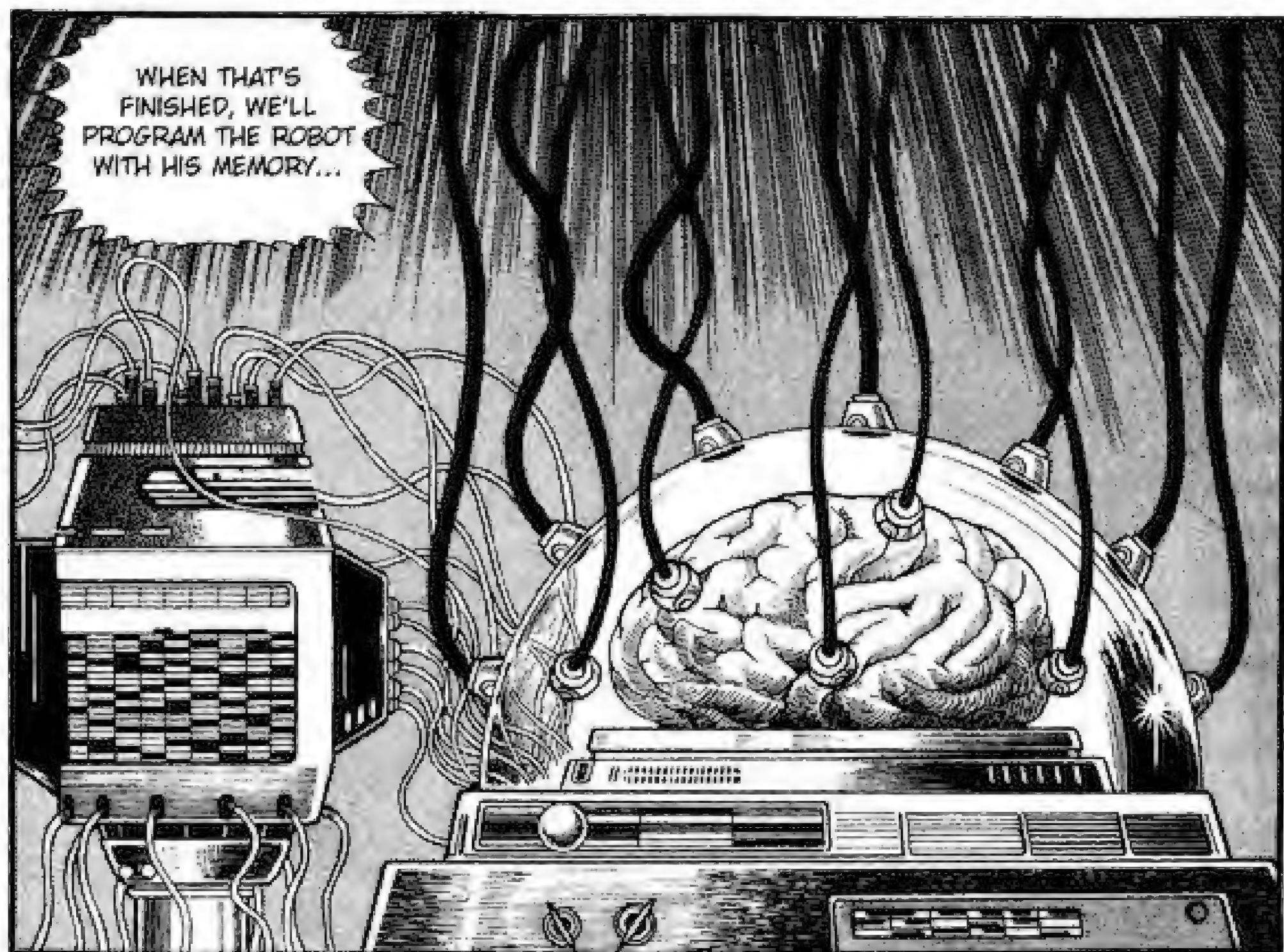
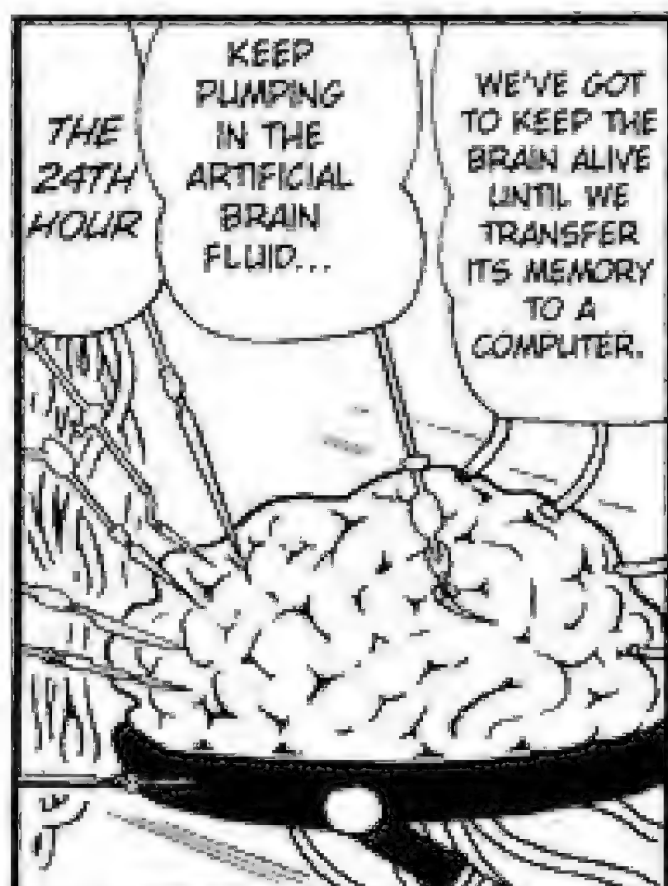
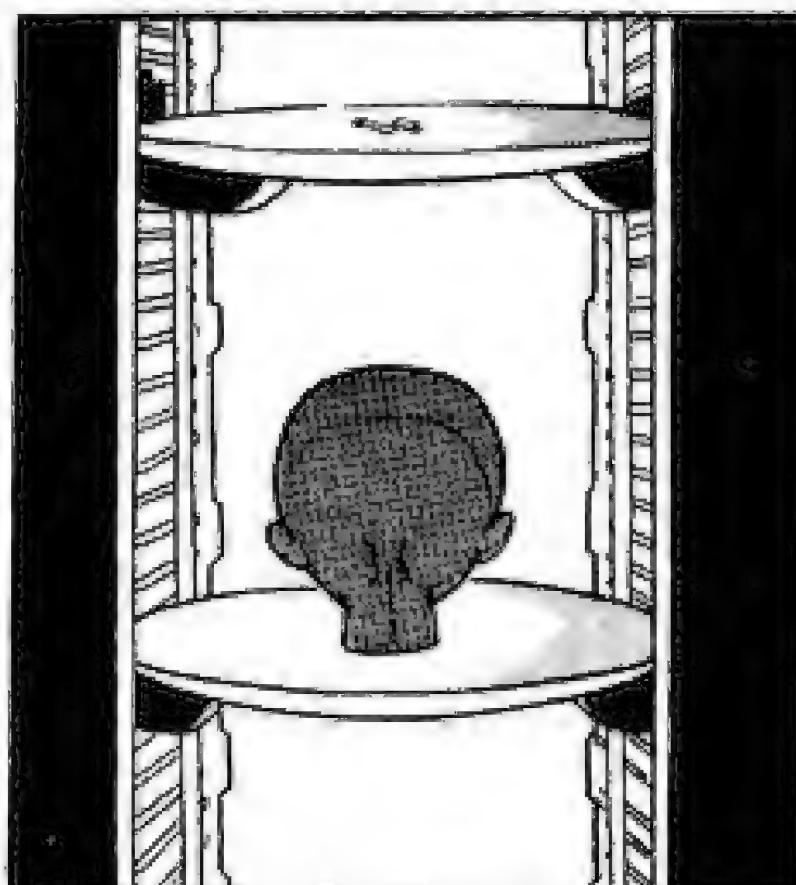
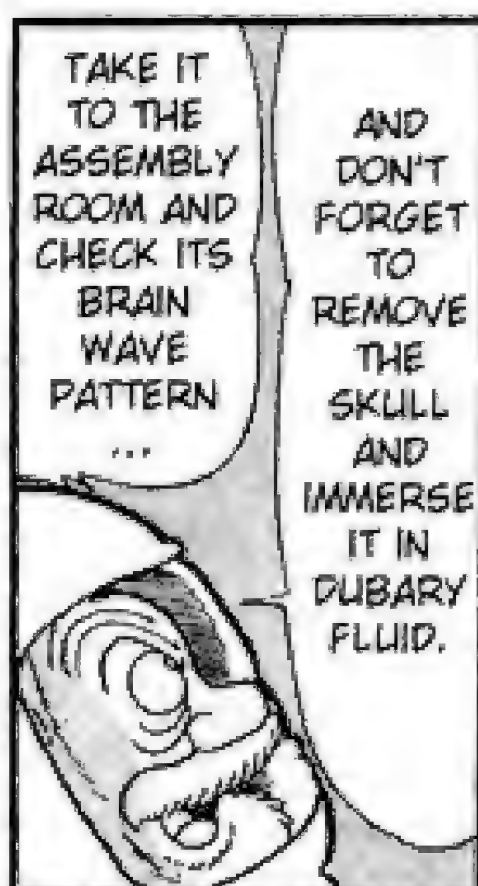
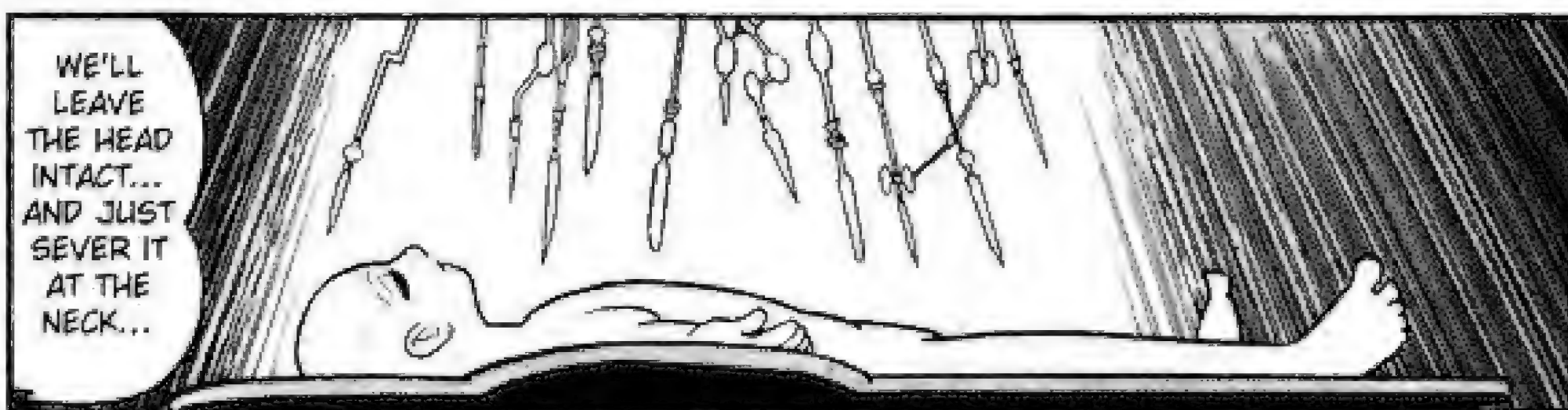
THERE WAS ONCE A NOVEL IN WHICH A DR. FRANKENSTEIN RECREATED A LIVING MAN BY SEWING TOGETHER PARTS OF VARIOUS CORPSES. NOW, IN THE 25TH CENTURY, THIS AGED DOCTOR IS ABOUT TO MAKE THAT DREAM INTO A REALITY. HOWEVER, THERE ARE MANY OBSTACLES THAT HAVE TO BE OVERCOME BEFORE SUCH AN EXPERIMENT CAN SUCCEED. ONE IS THE REJECTION PHENOMENON. IT COMMONLY APPEARS IN HEART- TRANSPLANT CASES WHERE THE PATIENT'S BODY REJECTS THE NEW HEART; MAN'S BODY TENDS TO REJECT ANY FOREIGN MATTER INTRODUCED INTO IT; IT PRODUCES ANTIGENS THAT FORCE THE FOREIGN ORGAN OUT. IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT MEDICAL SCIENCE WAS ABLE TO OVERCOME THIS PROBLEM.

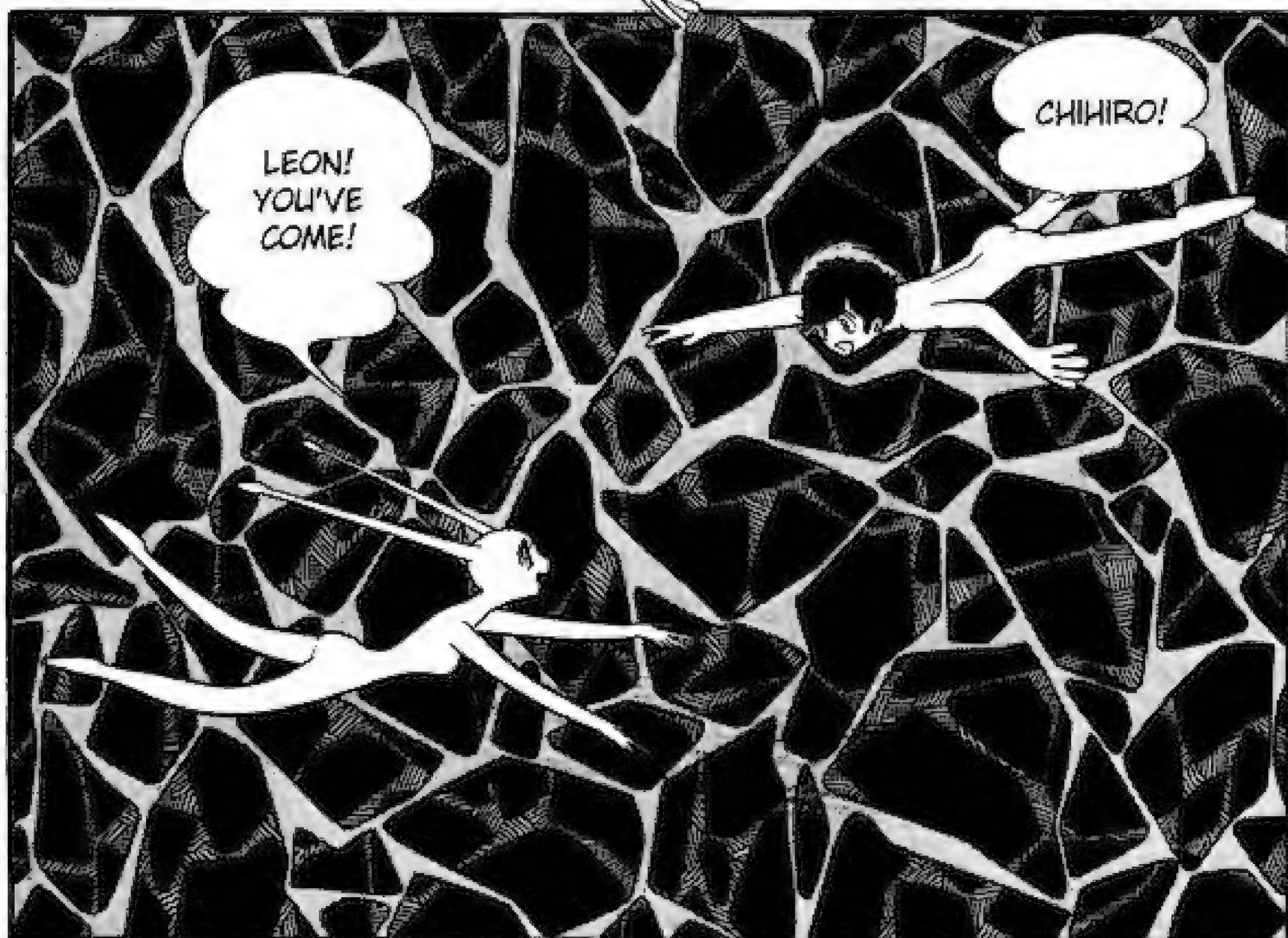
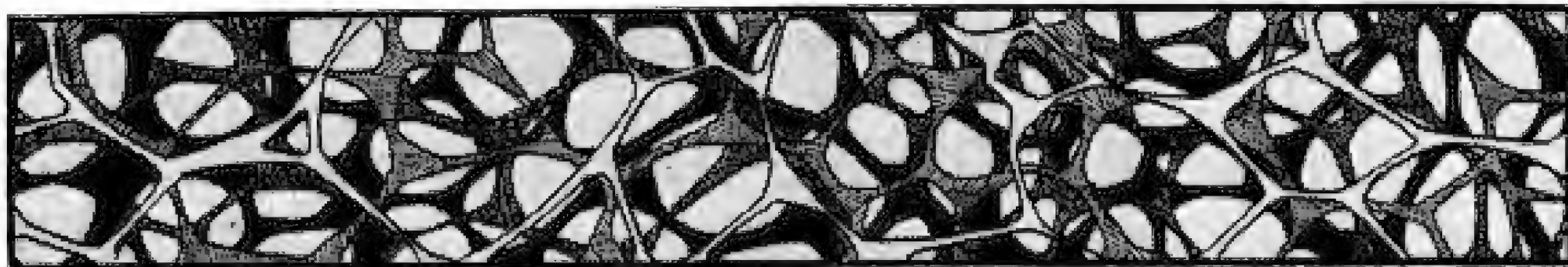




FROM THEIR FINGERNAILS TO THEIR HAIR, THE TWO BODIES WERE REDUCED TO THEIR 5,200 COMPONENTS AND RUN THROUGH A COMPUTER ANALYSIS TO DETERMINE WHICH ORGANS WERE STILL GOOD AND WHICH WERE NOT. EACH ORGAN WAS THEN PLACED IN A CONTAINER FULL OF NOLAN DUBARY FLUID AND KEPT ALIVE.







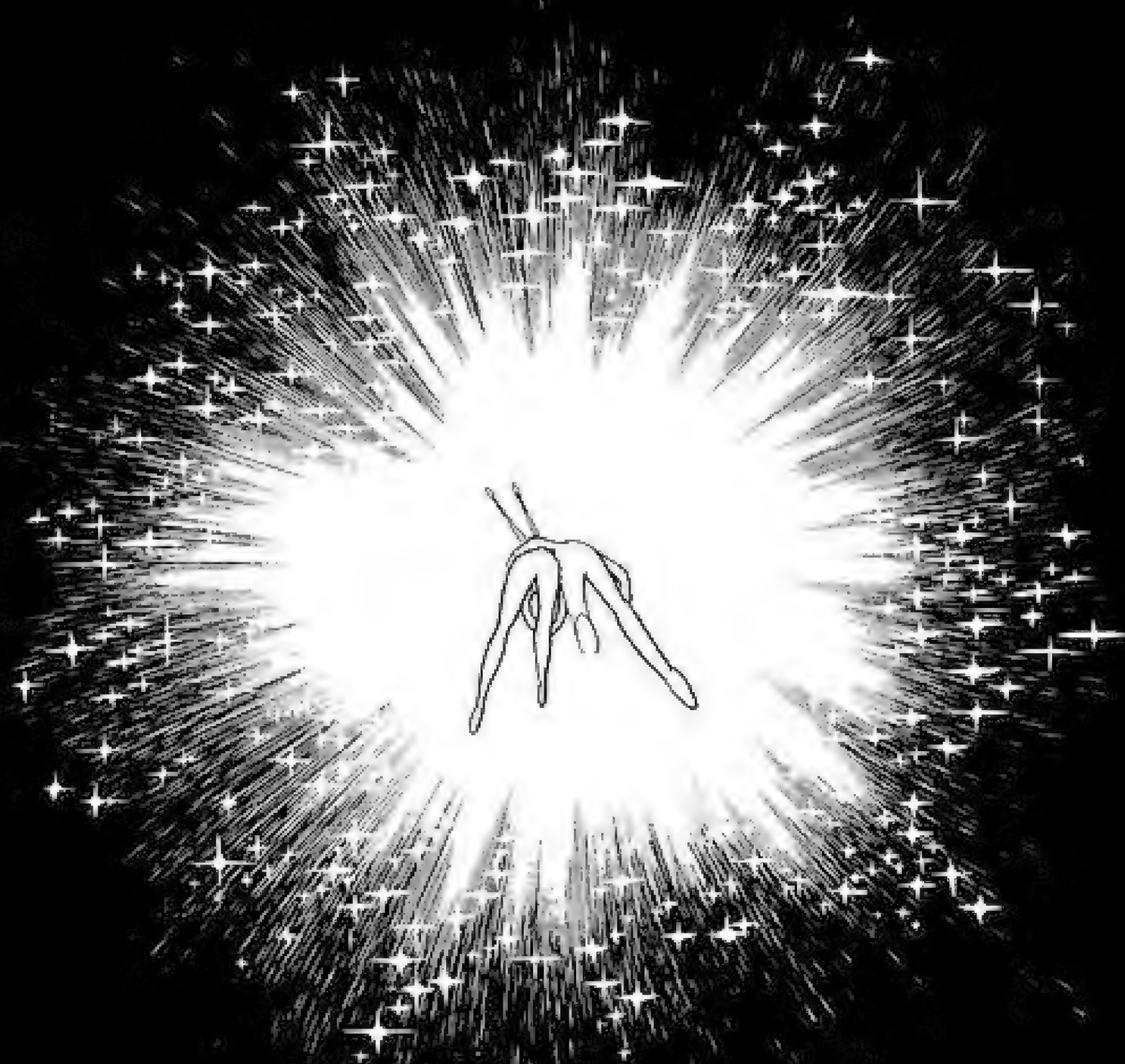


I... I DIDN'T THINK I'D
SEE YOU HERE! DOC MUST
HAVE PUT MY MIND INTO
YOU AS HE PROMISED.

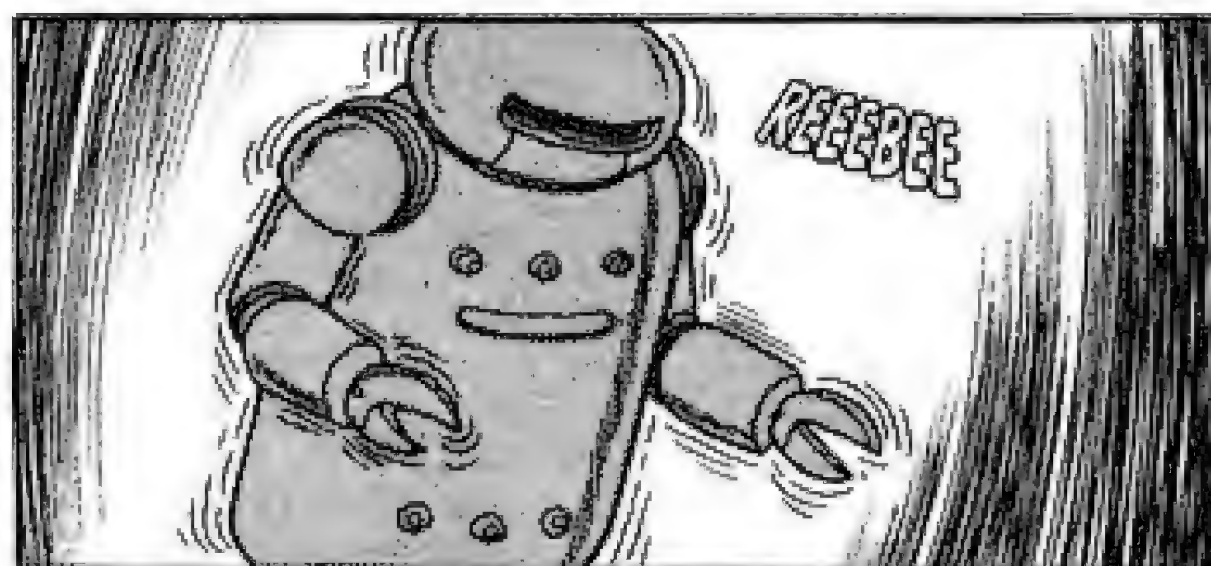
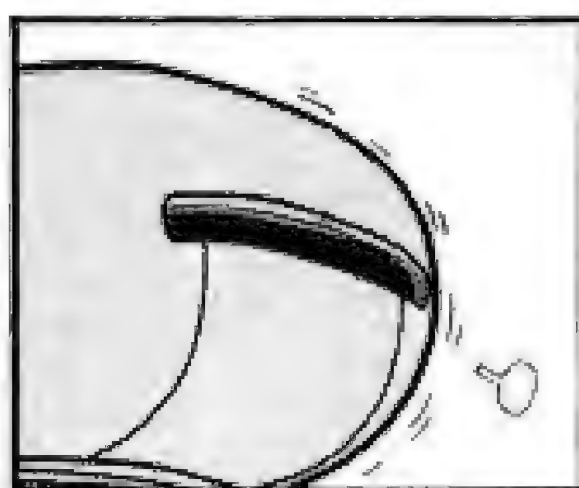
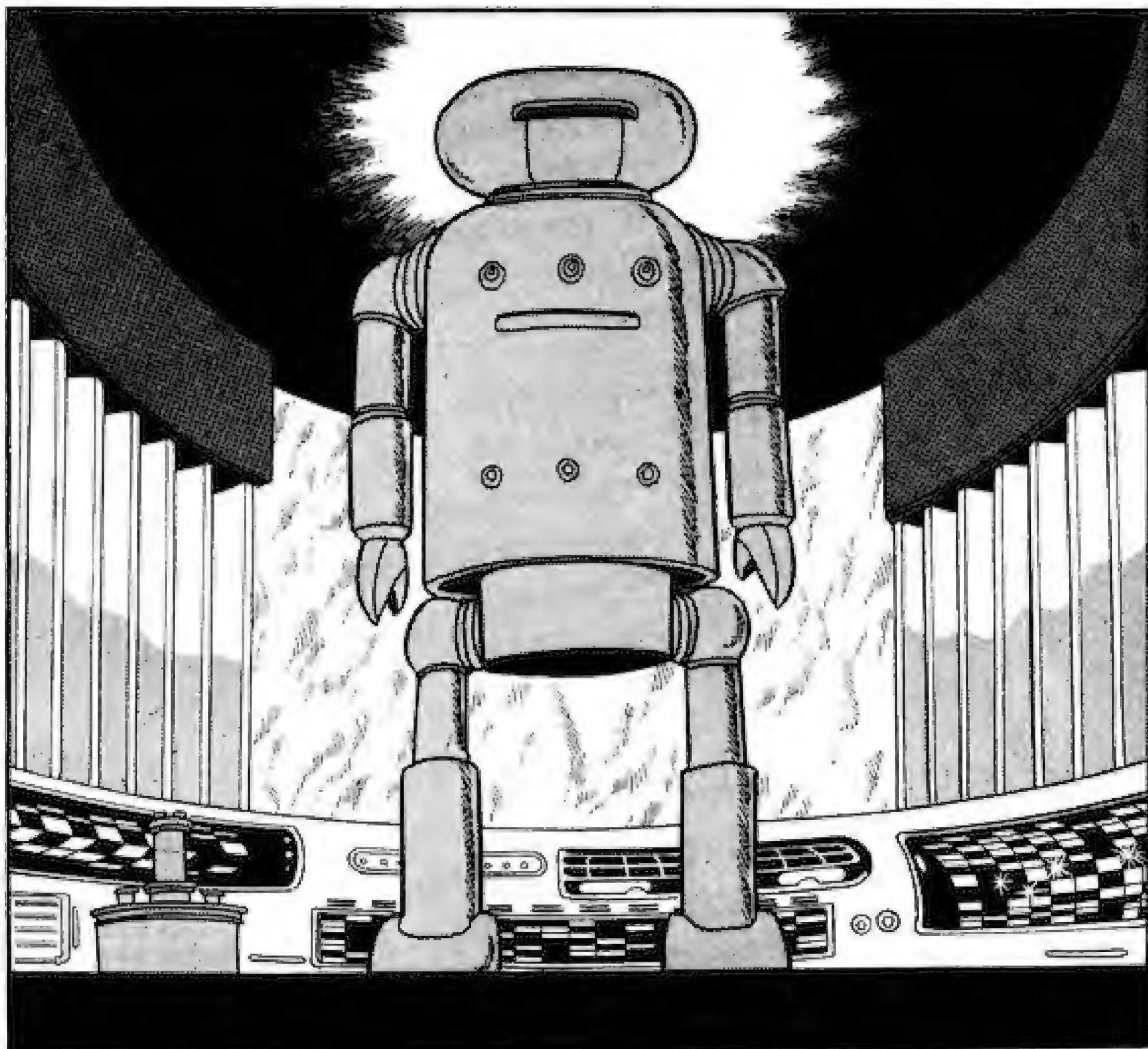
LEON!
WE'RE
TOGETHER
AT LAST!

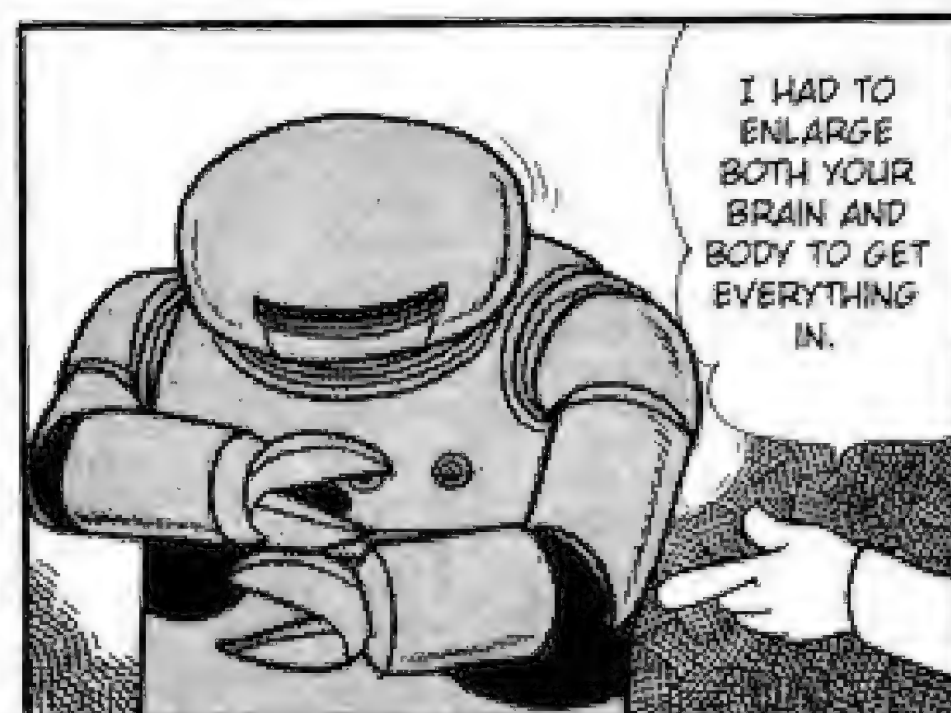
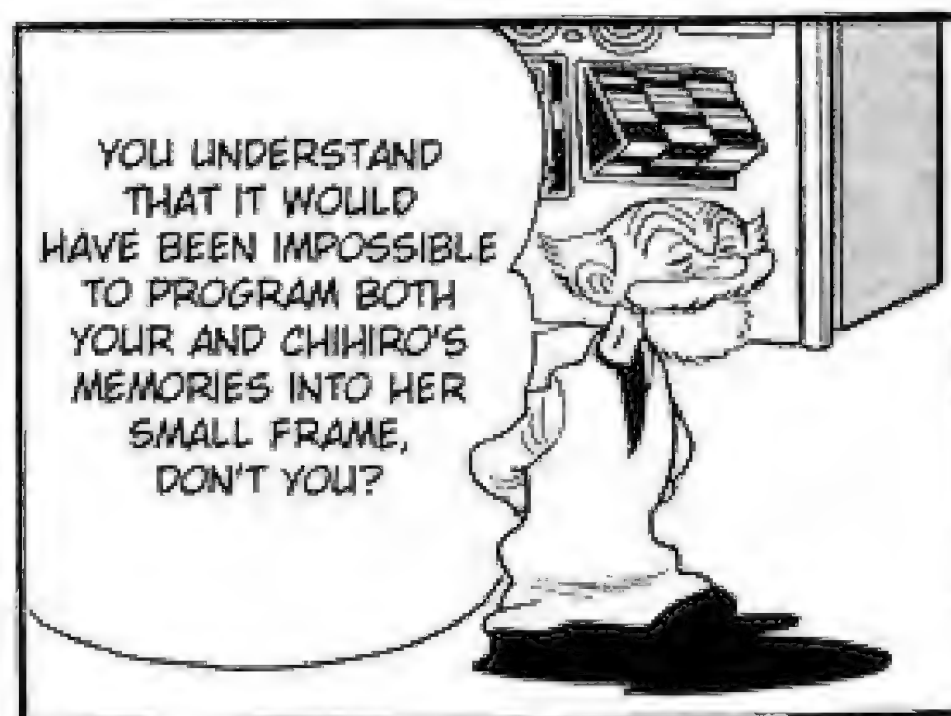
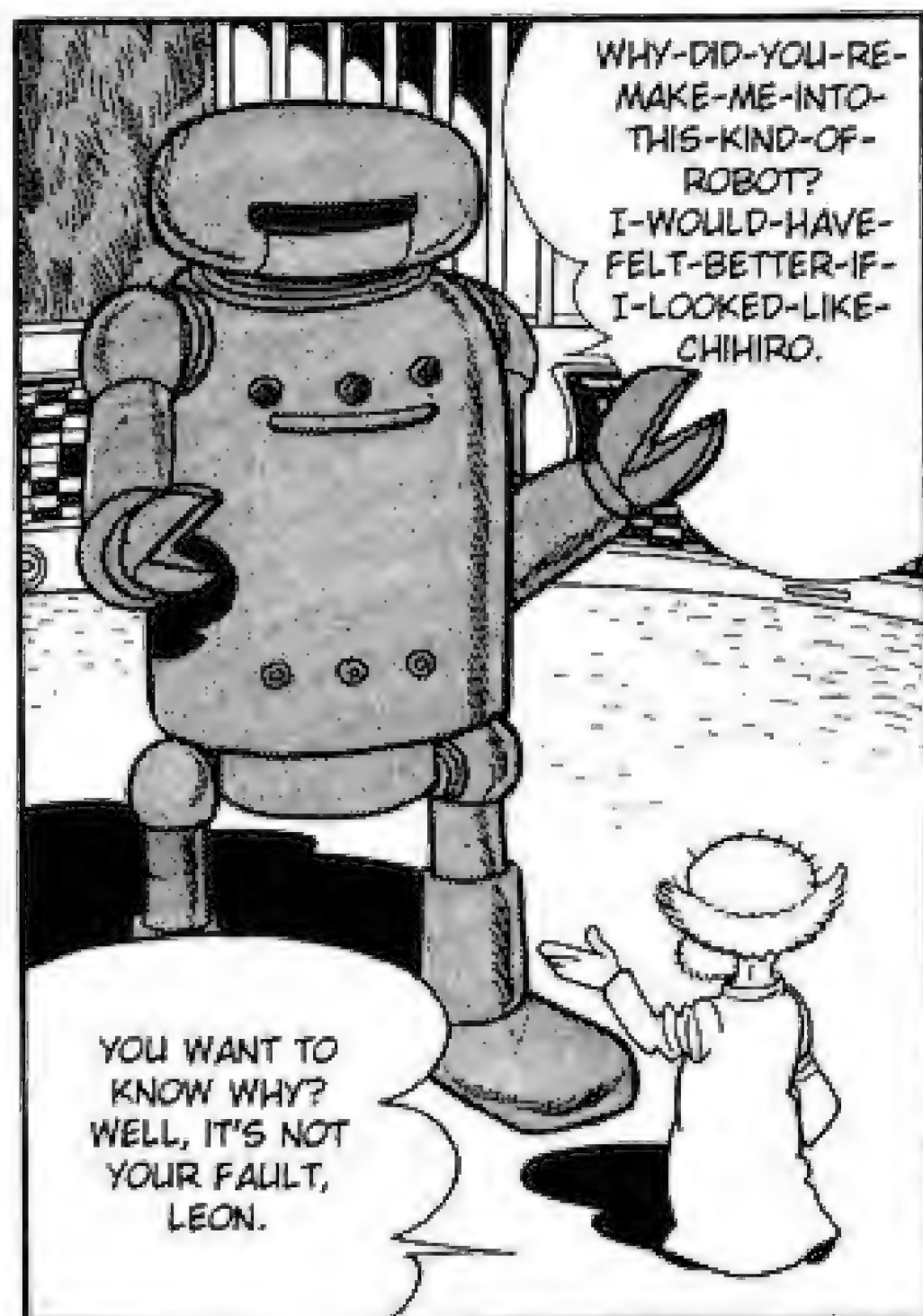
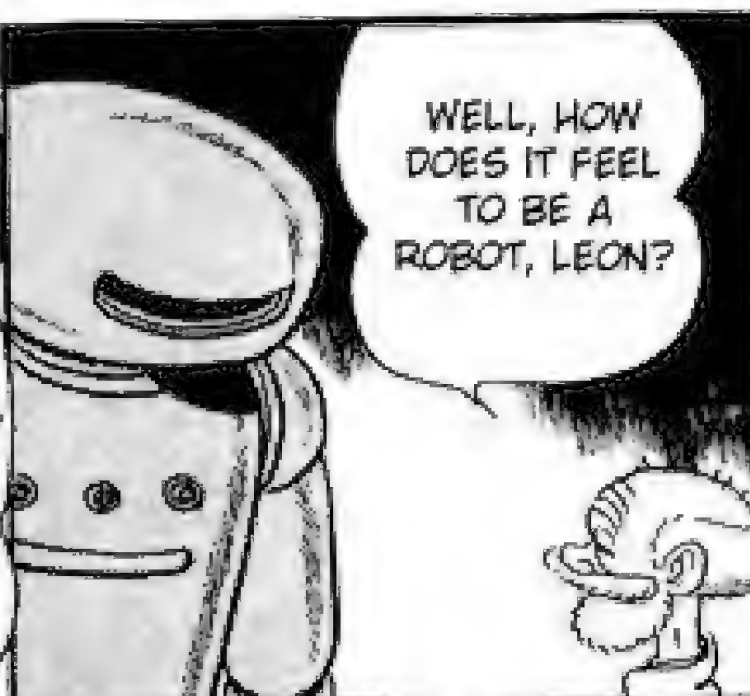
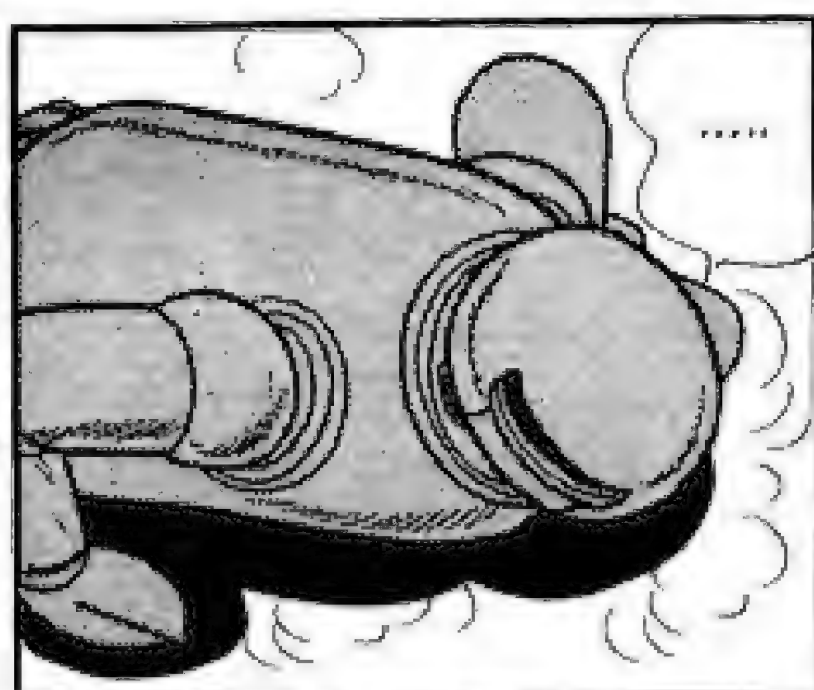
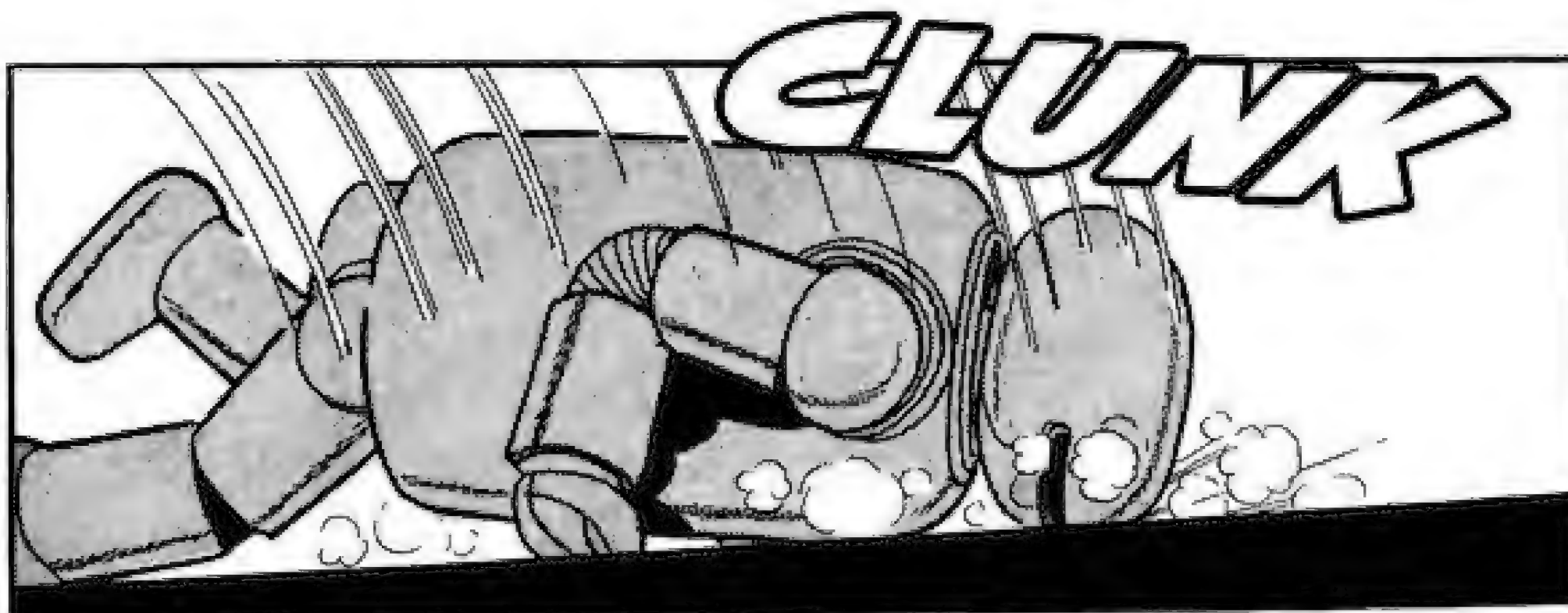
OF COURSE.
WE SHARE
THE SAME
BODY NOW.

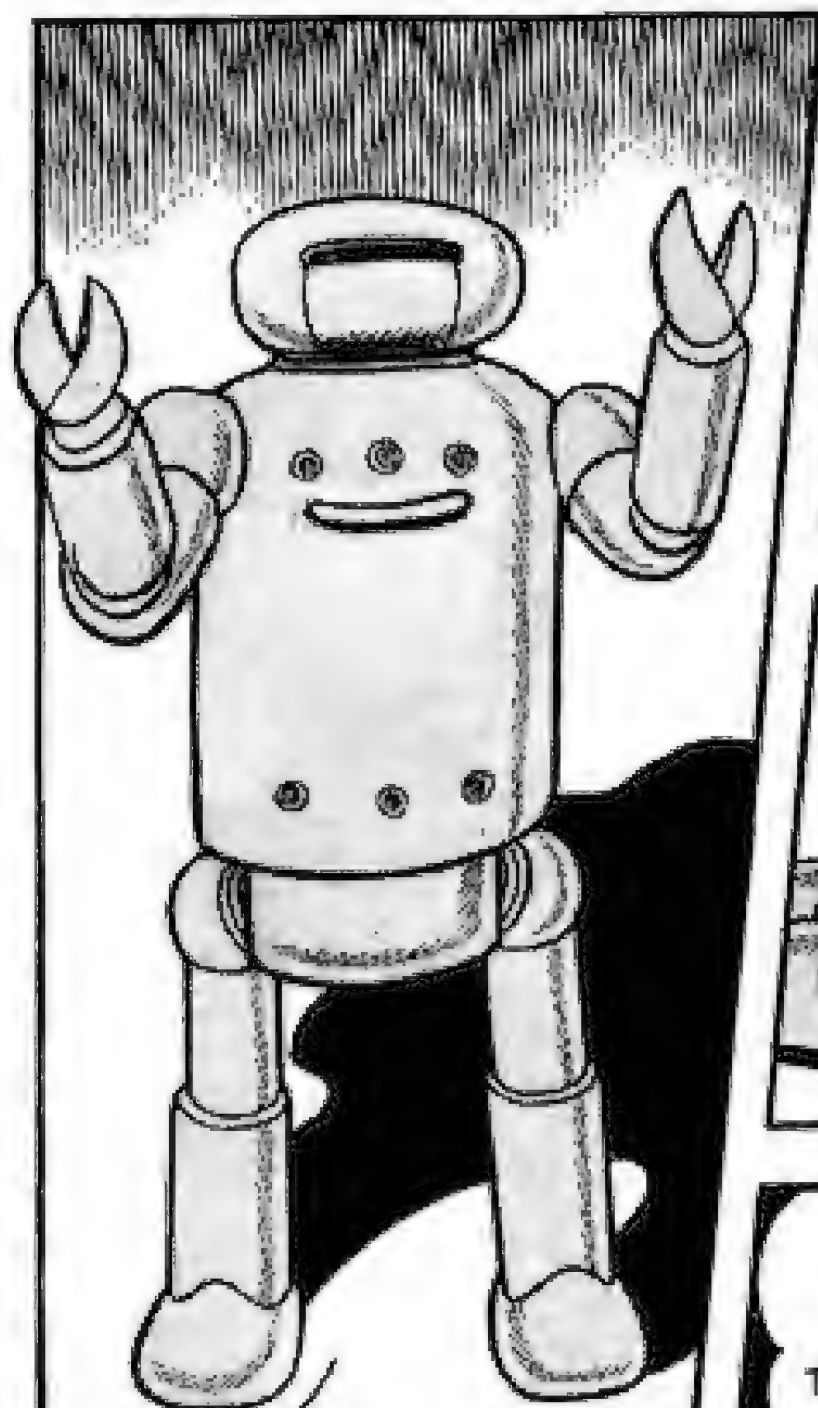
CHIHRO!
HOLD ME
TIGHT!
LET ME
BECOME
PART OF
YOU!



LOOK! THERE'S
THE EXIT!
WE'RE ABOUT
TO BE REBORN
AS ONE!

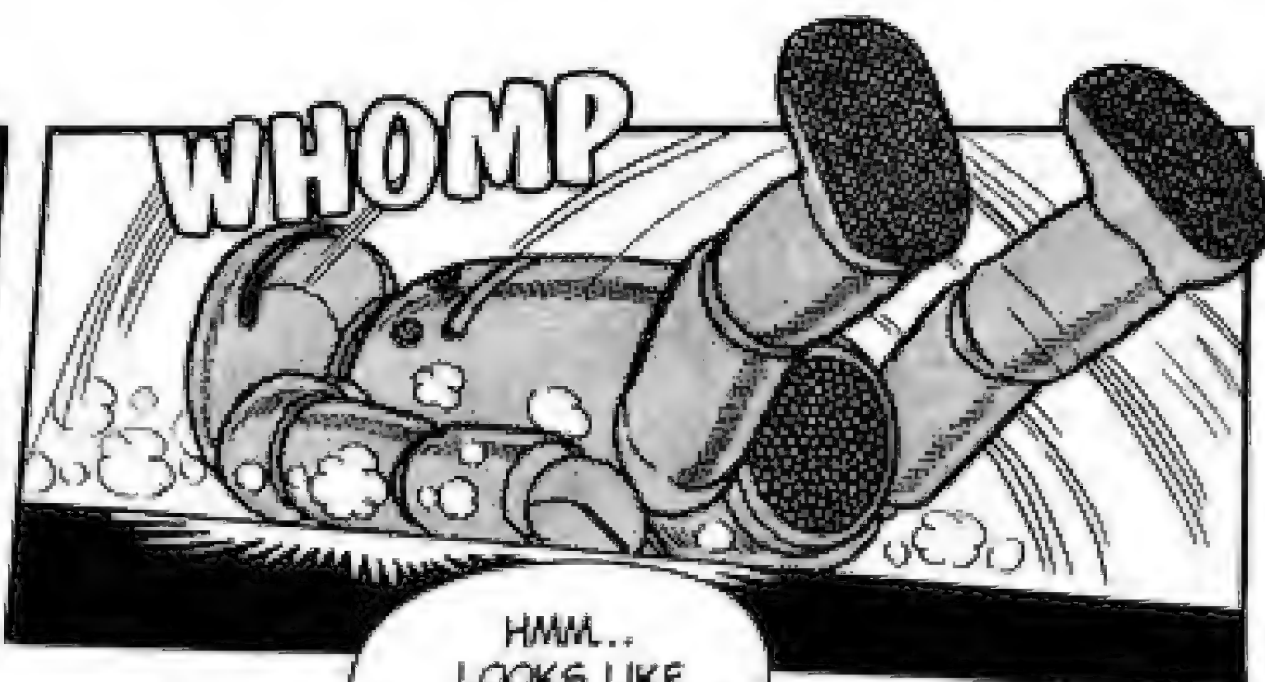
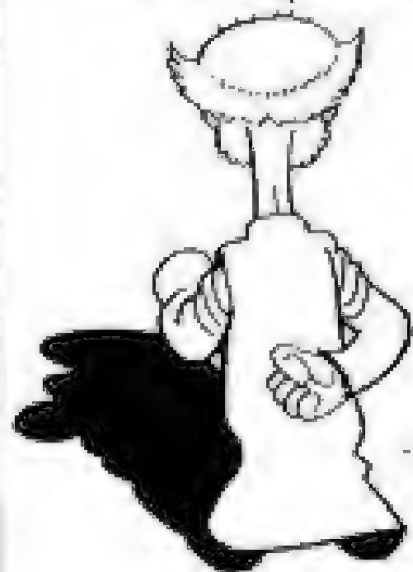






BUT...
THIS-IS-
TOO-MUCH...

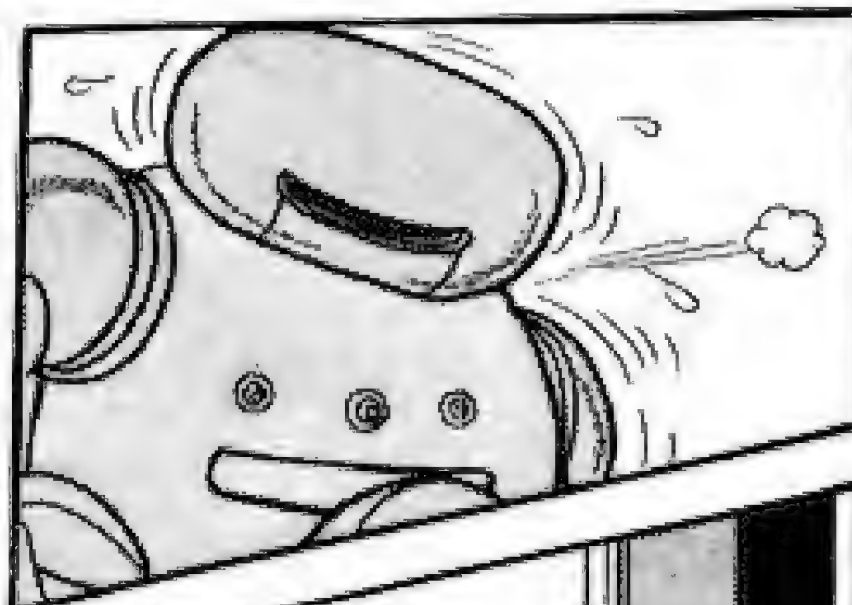
I DON'T WANT TO
HEAR ANY MORE
COMPLAINTS! YOU ARE
IN NO POSITION TO
GRIPE ABOUT LOOKS!



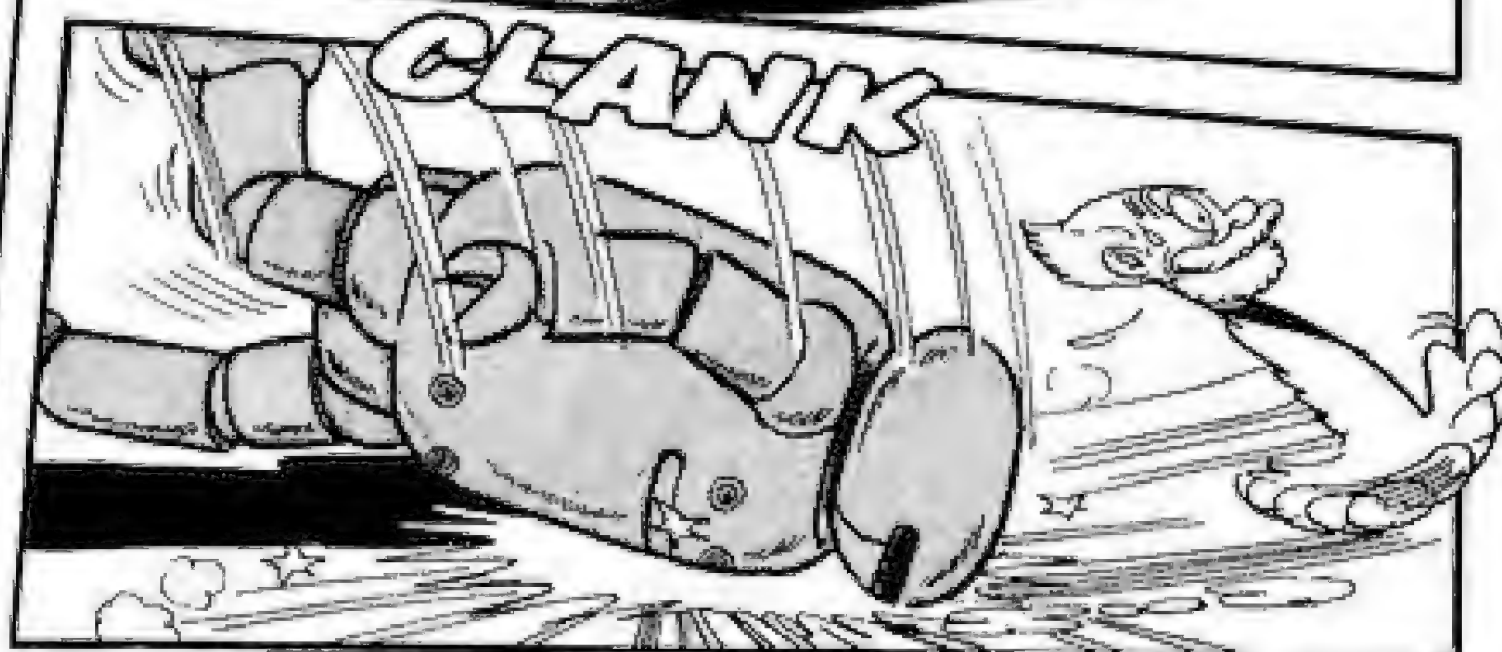
HMM...
LOOKS LIKE
YOU HAVEN'T
GOT YOUR
BALANCE YET.

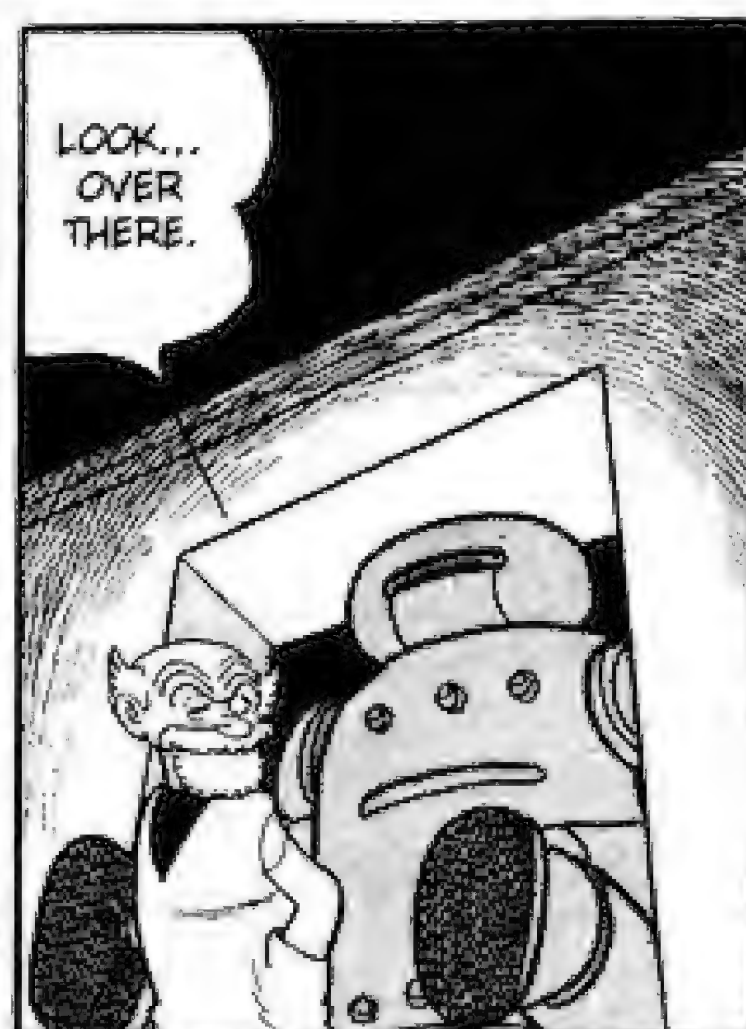
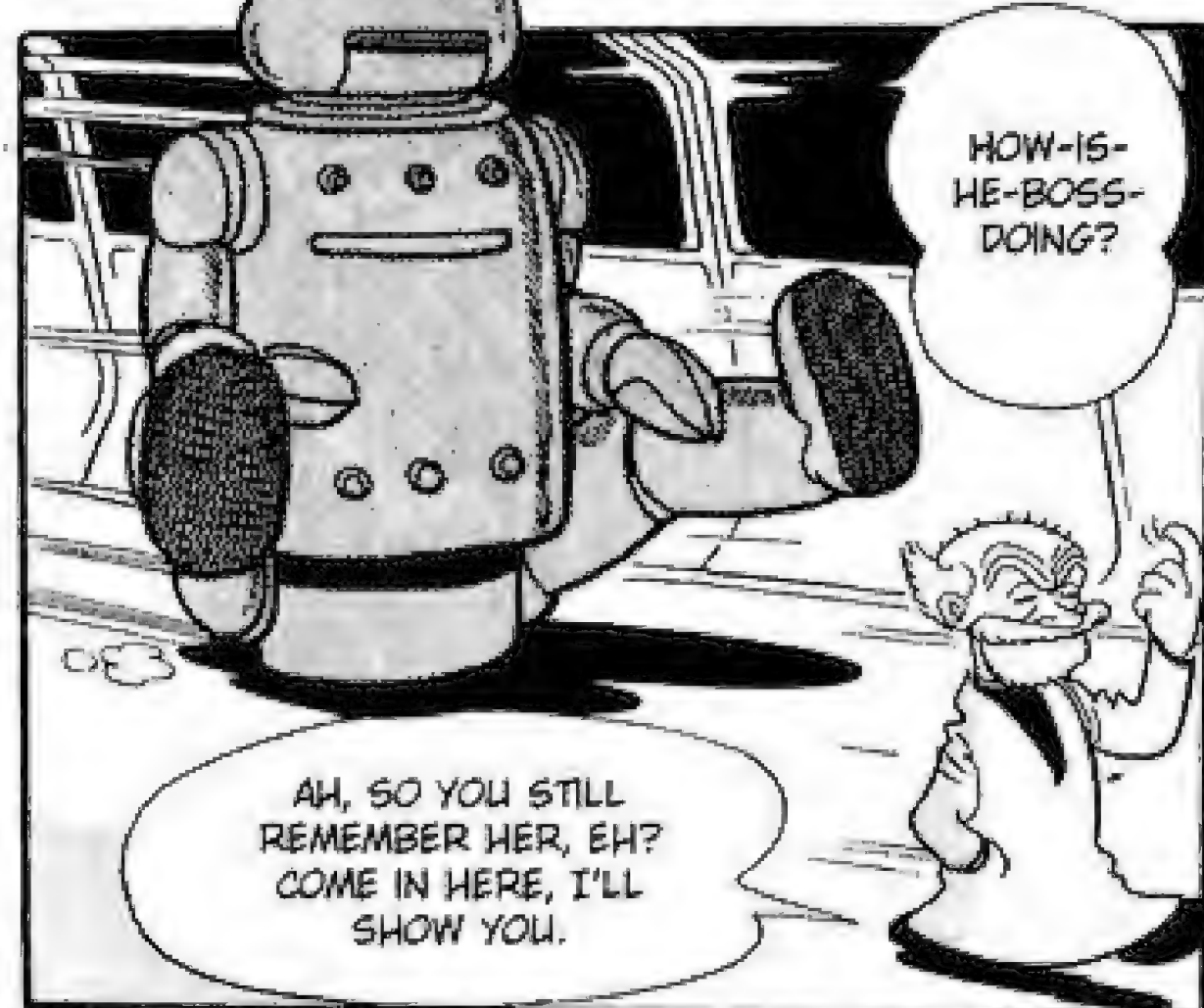
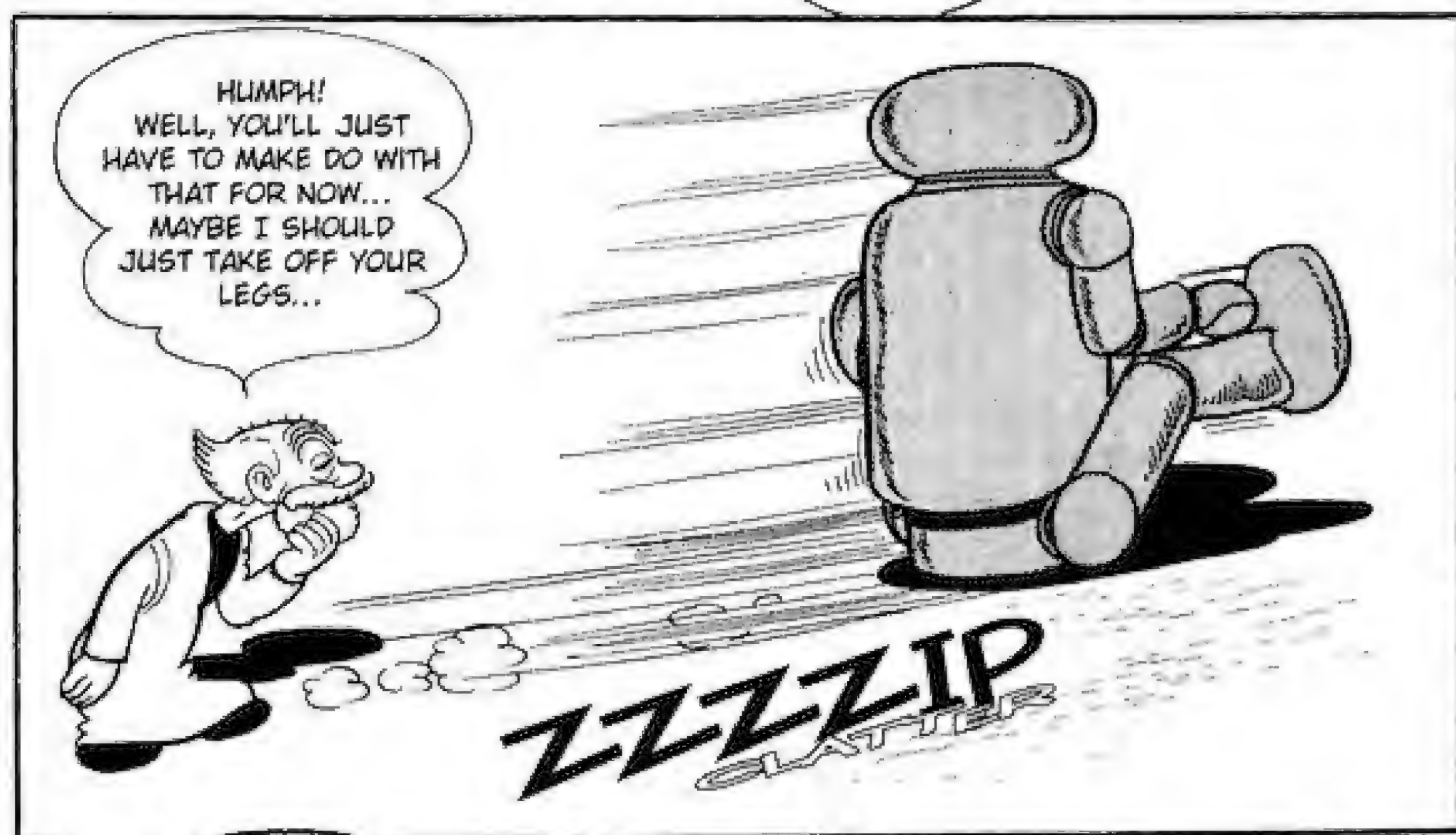
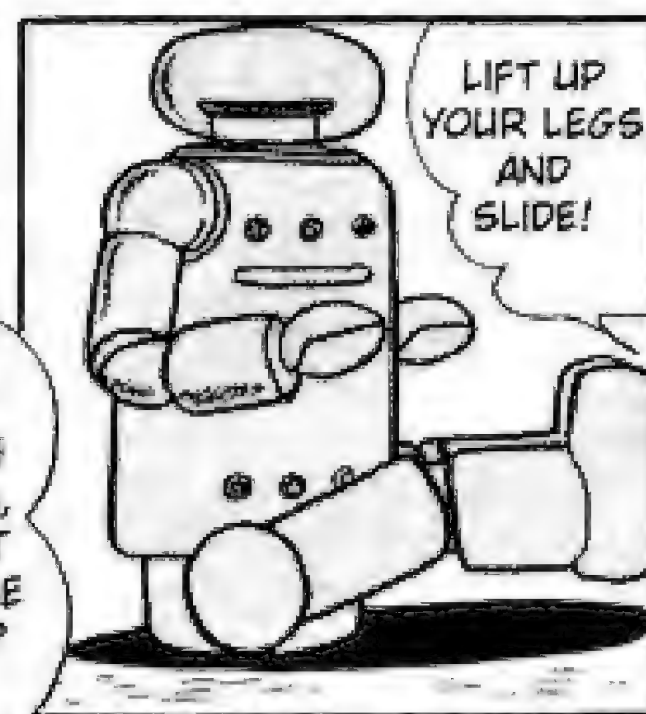


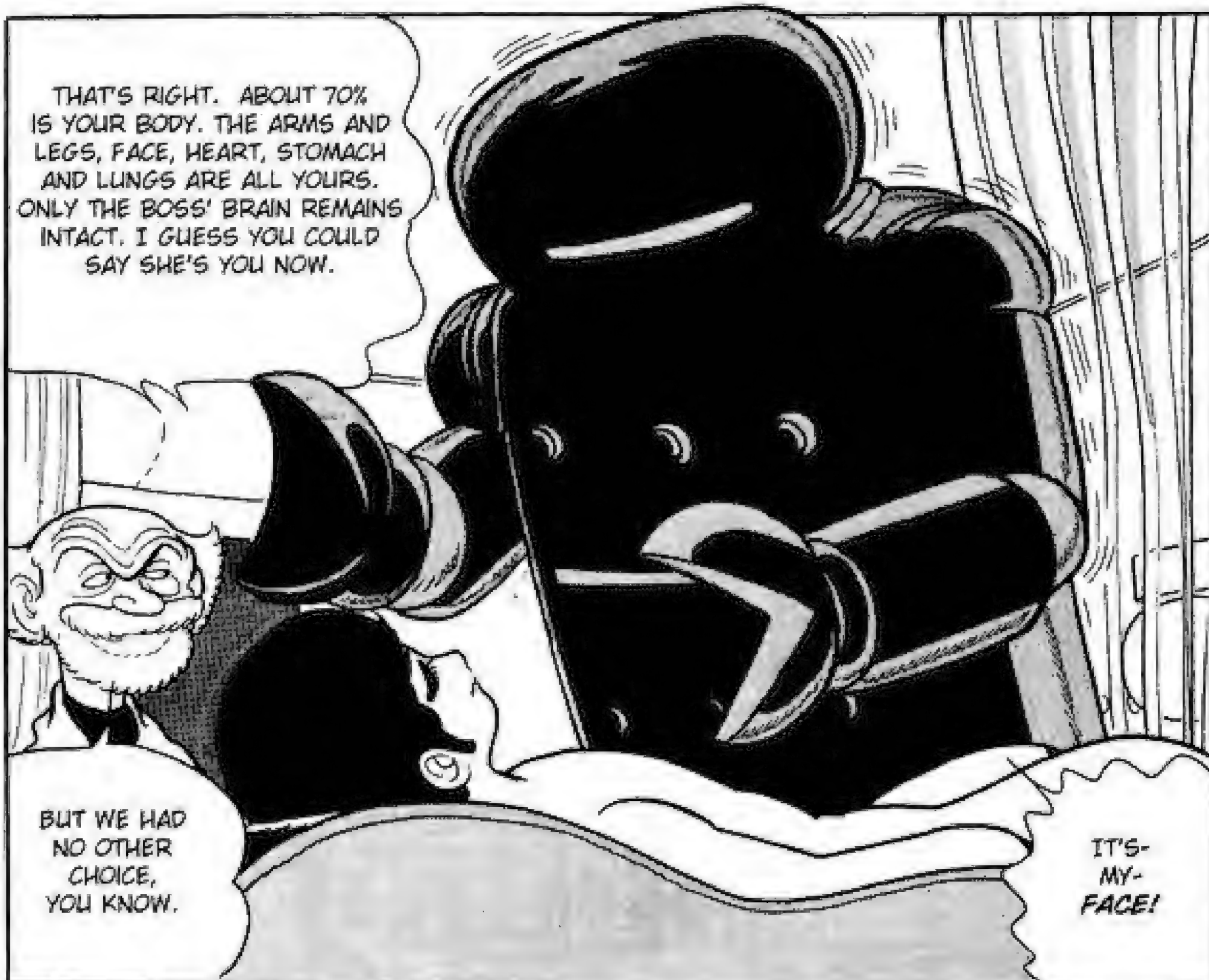
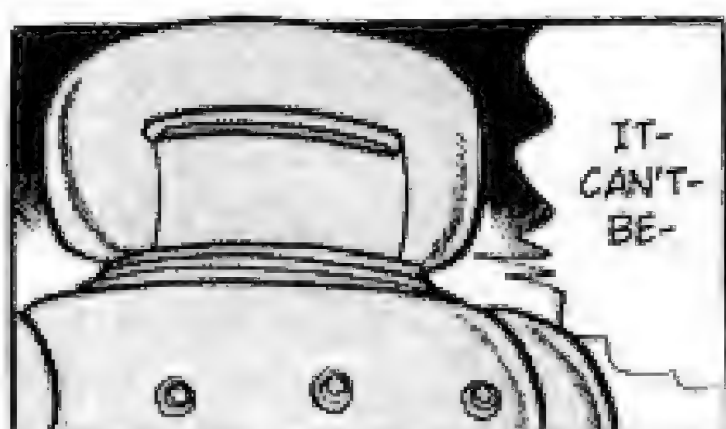
MAYBE I
MADE YOU
A LITTLE
TOP HEAVY...

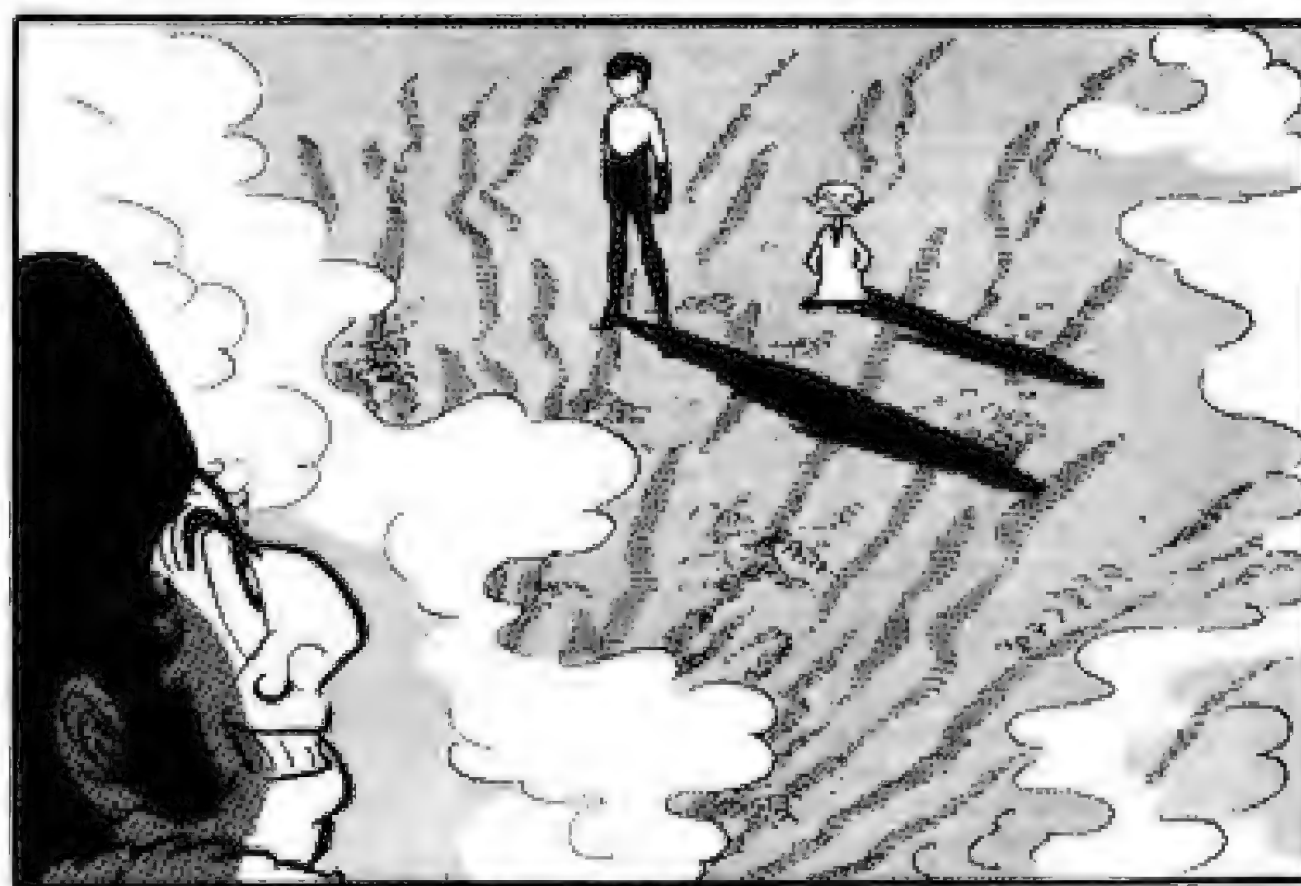
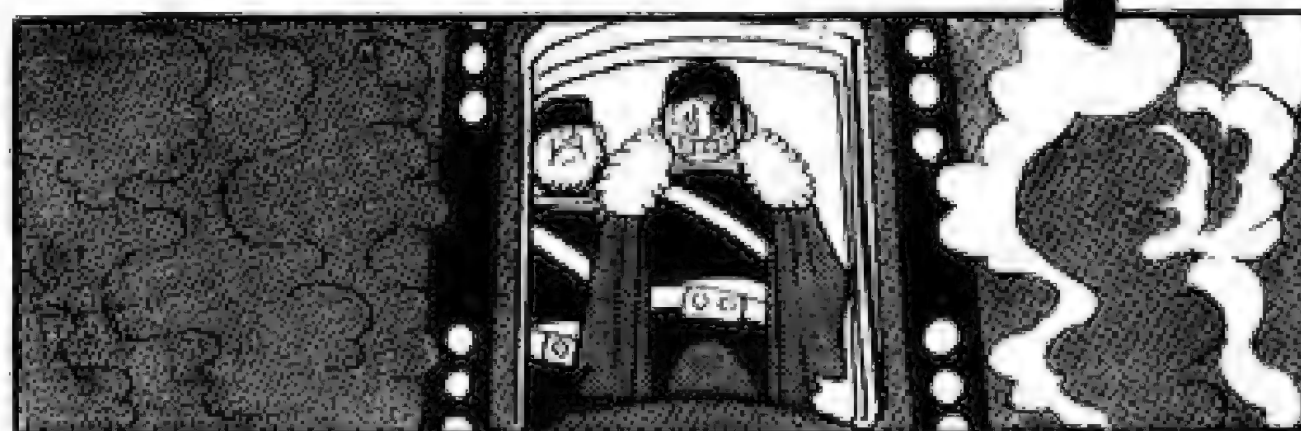
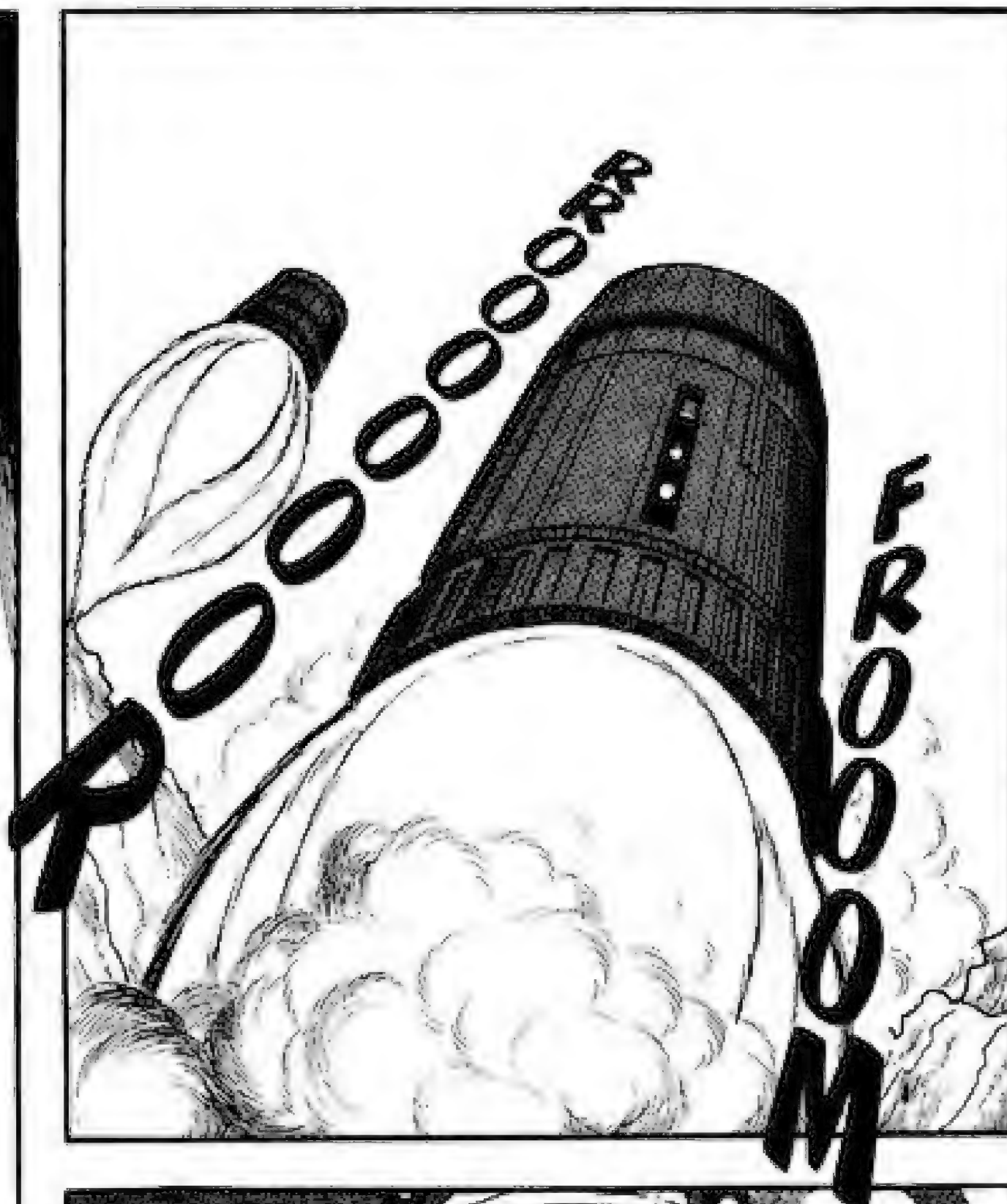
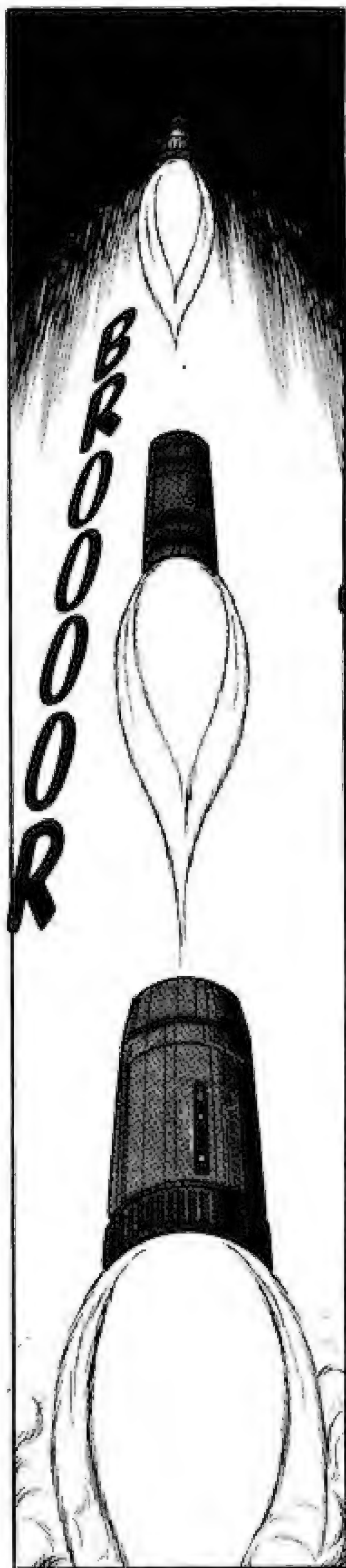


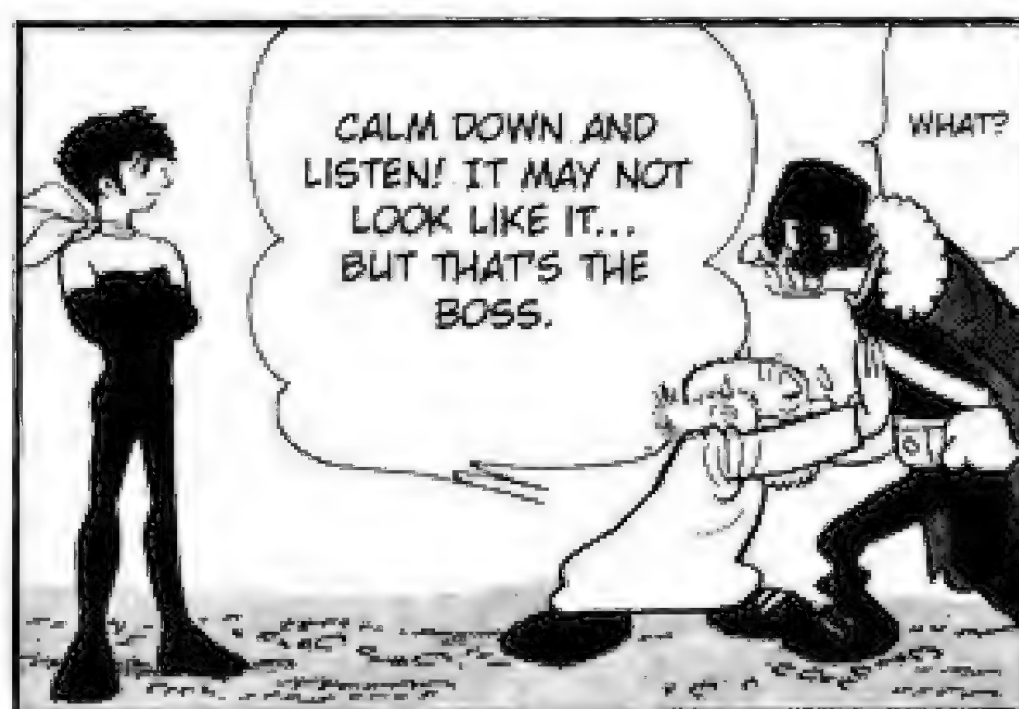
TAKE A
FEW STEPS
THIS WAY.

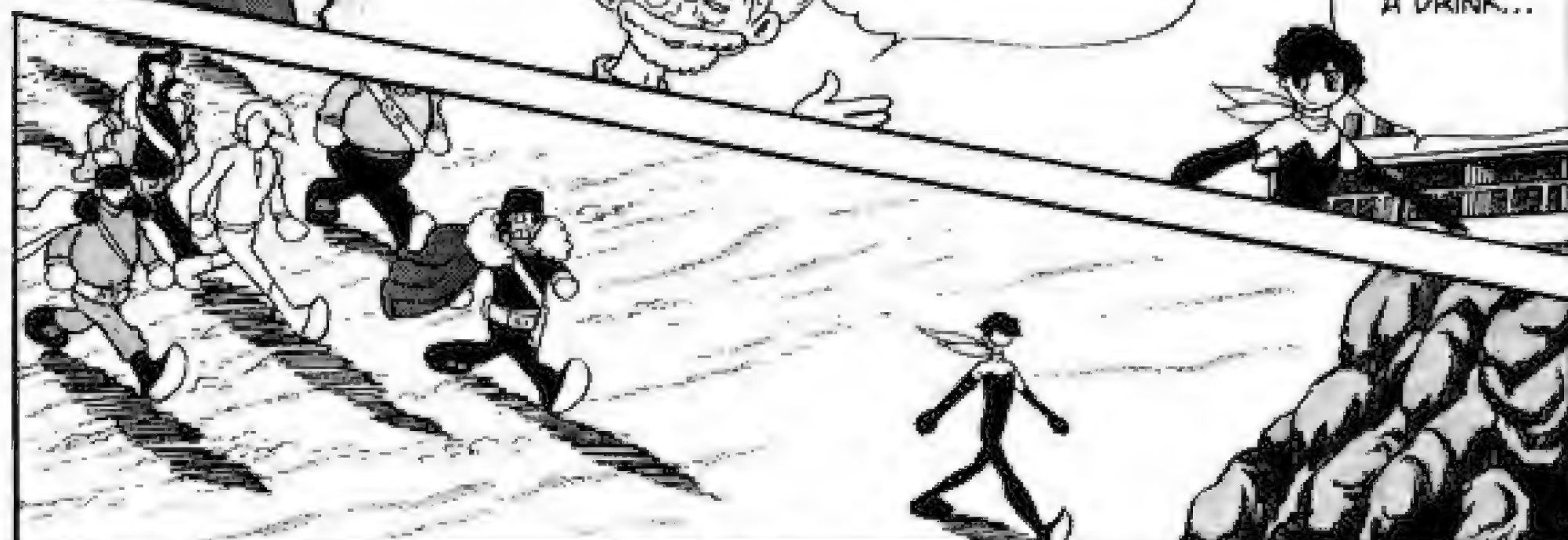
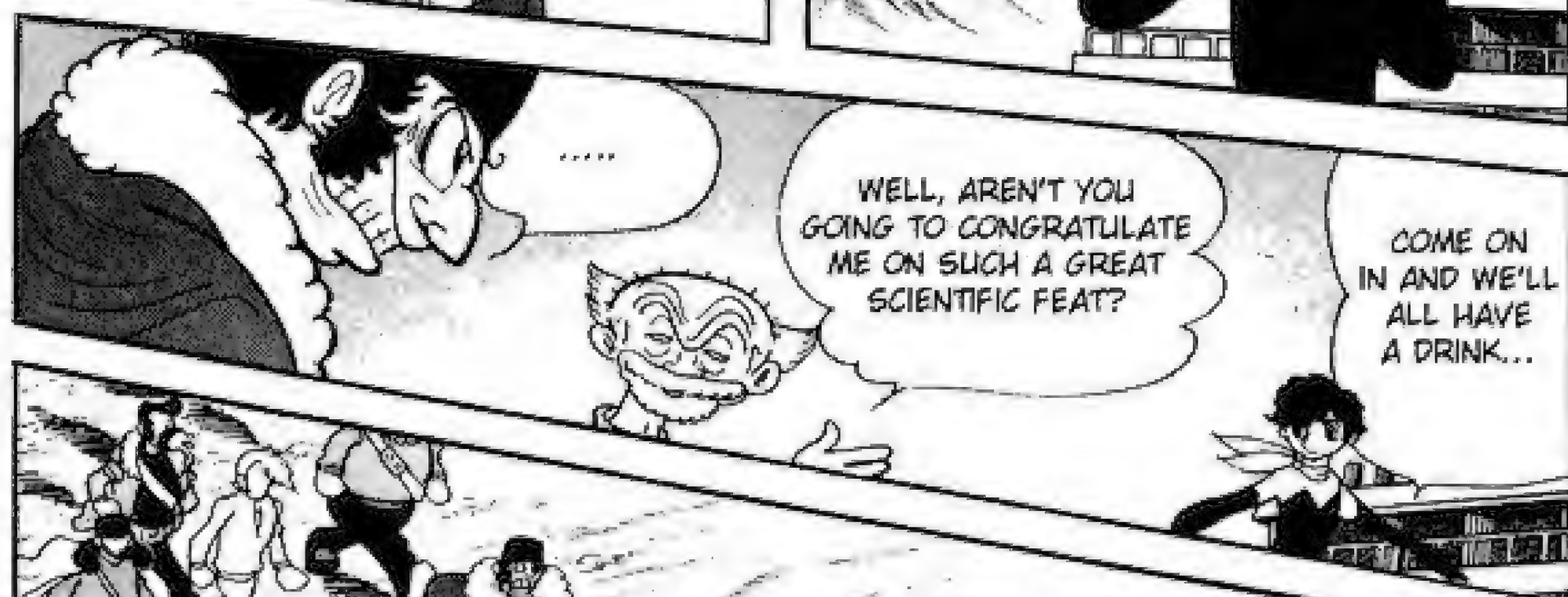
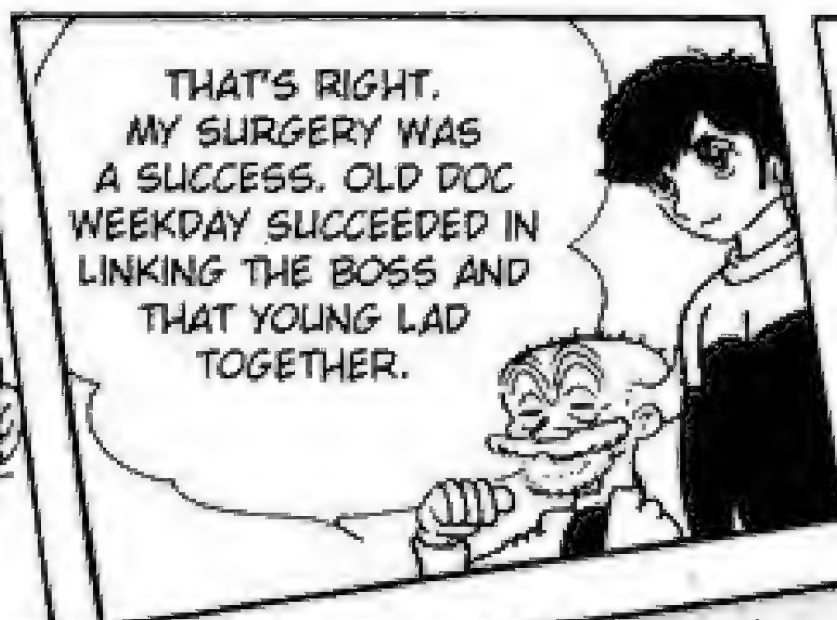


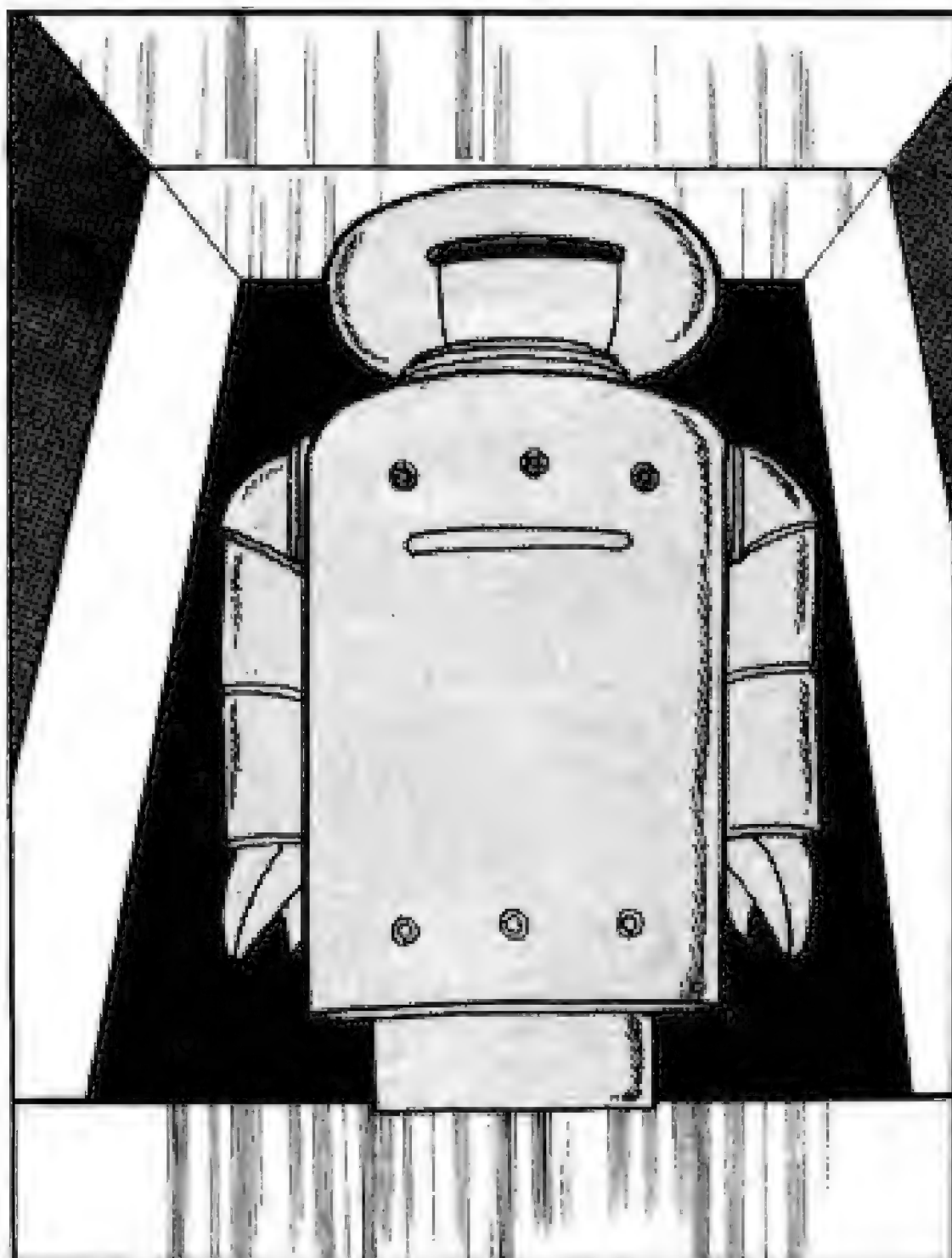




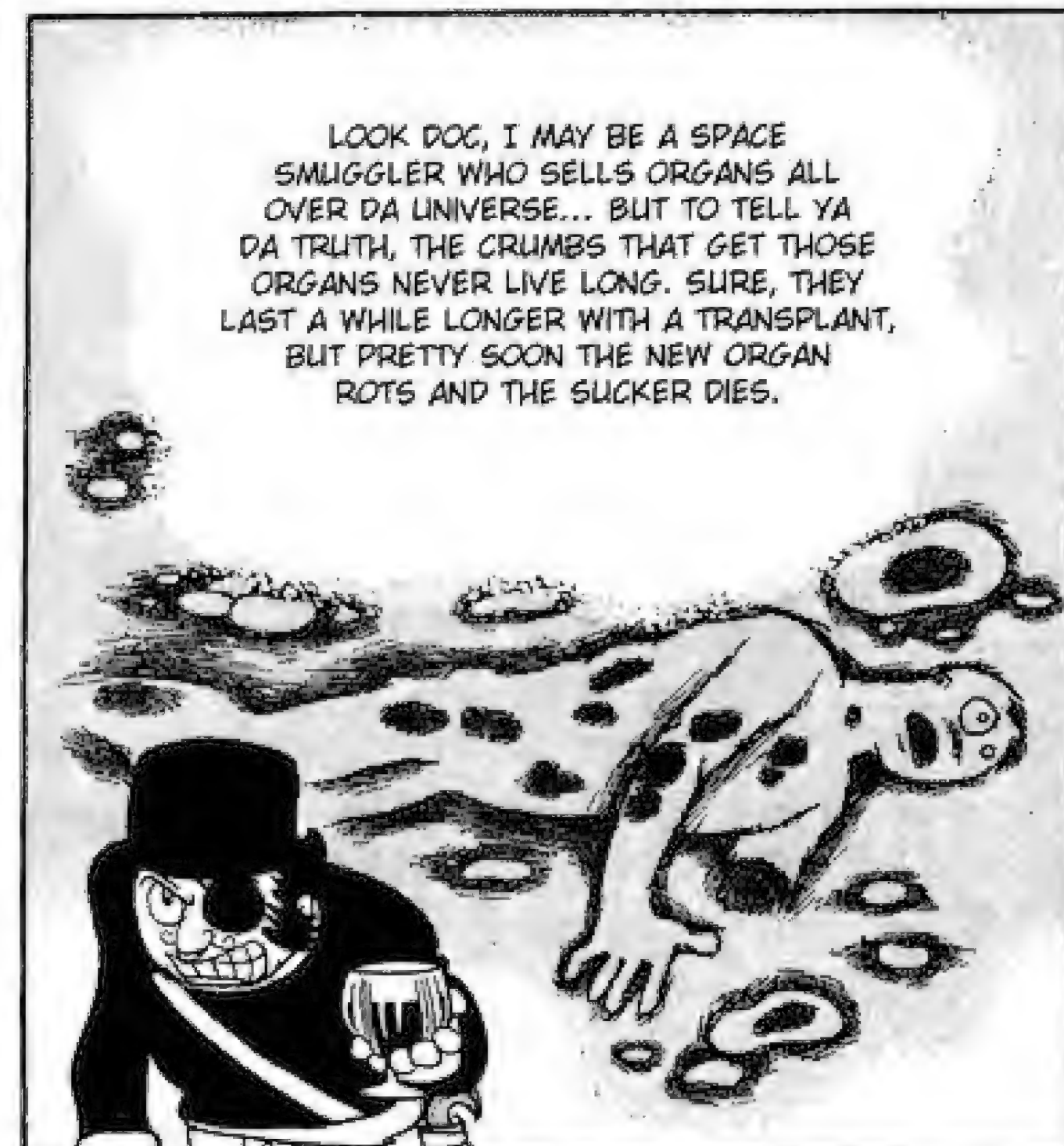
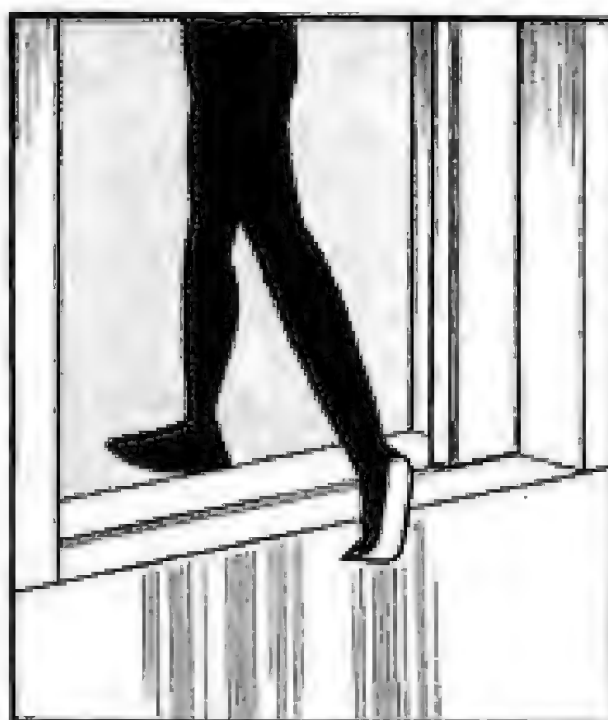


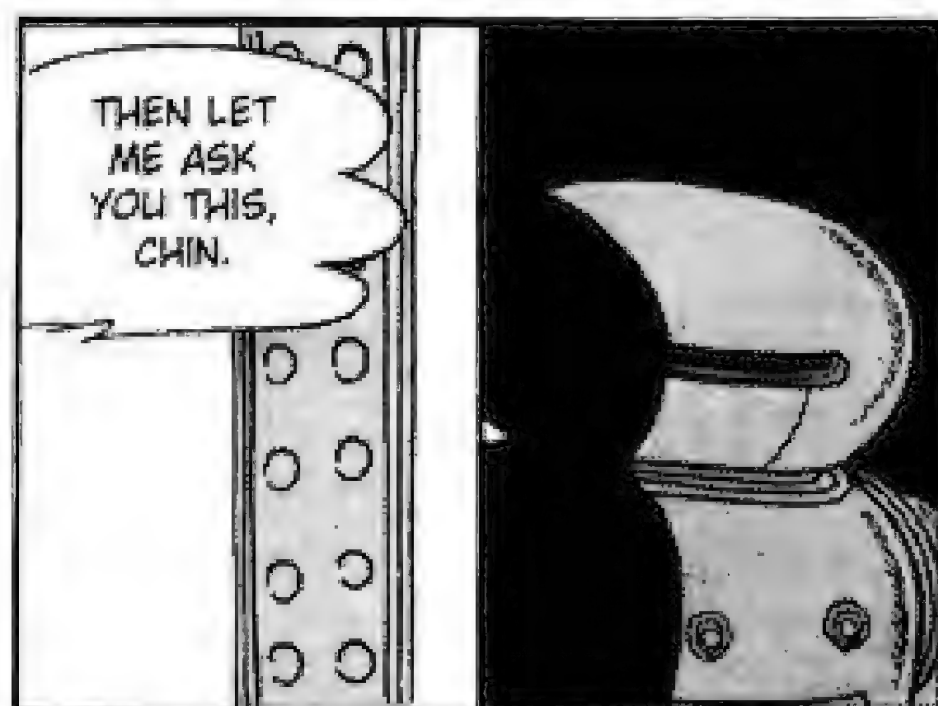
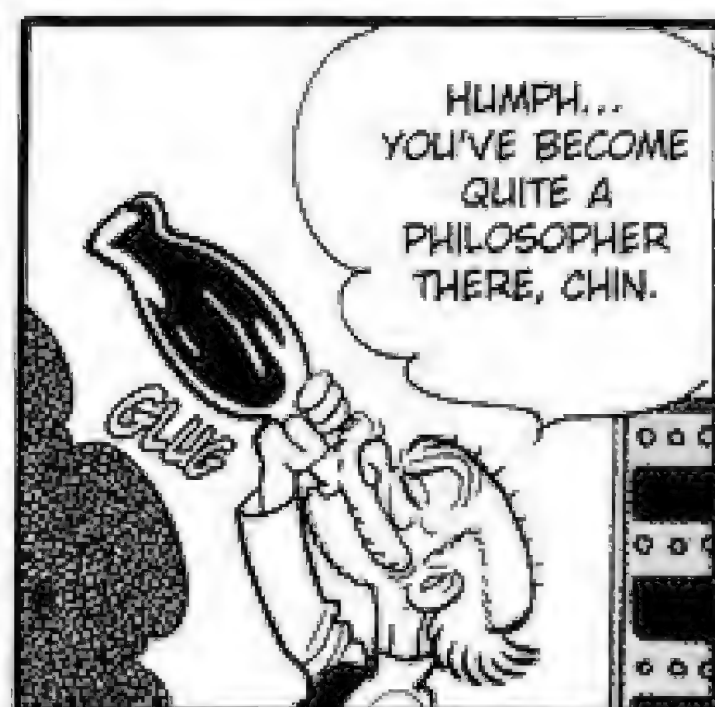
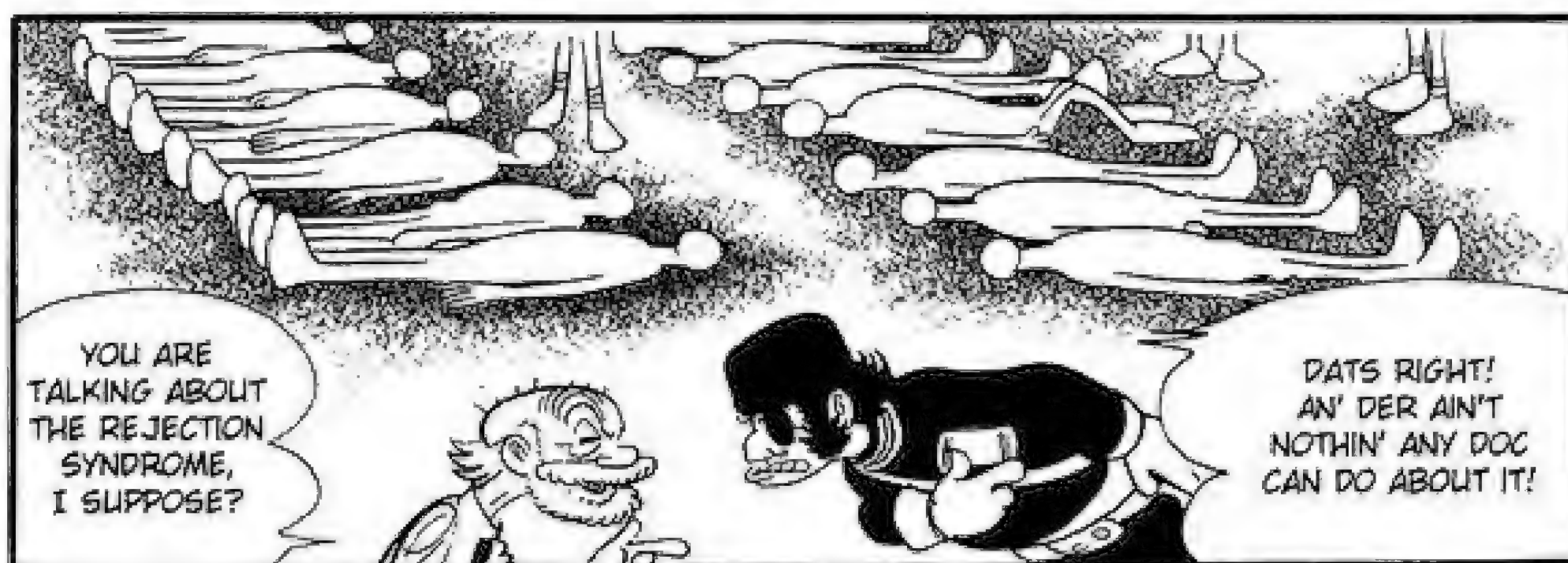


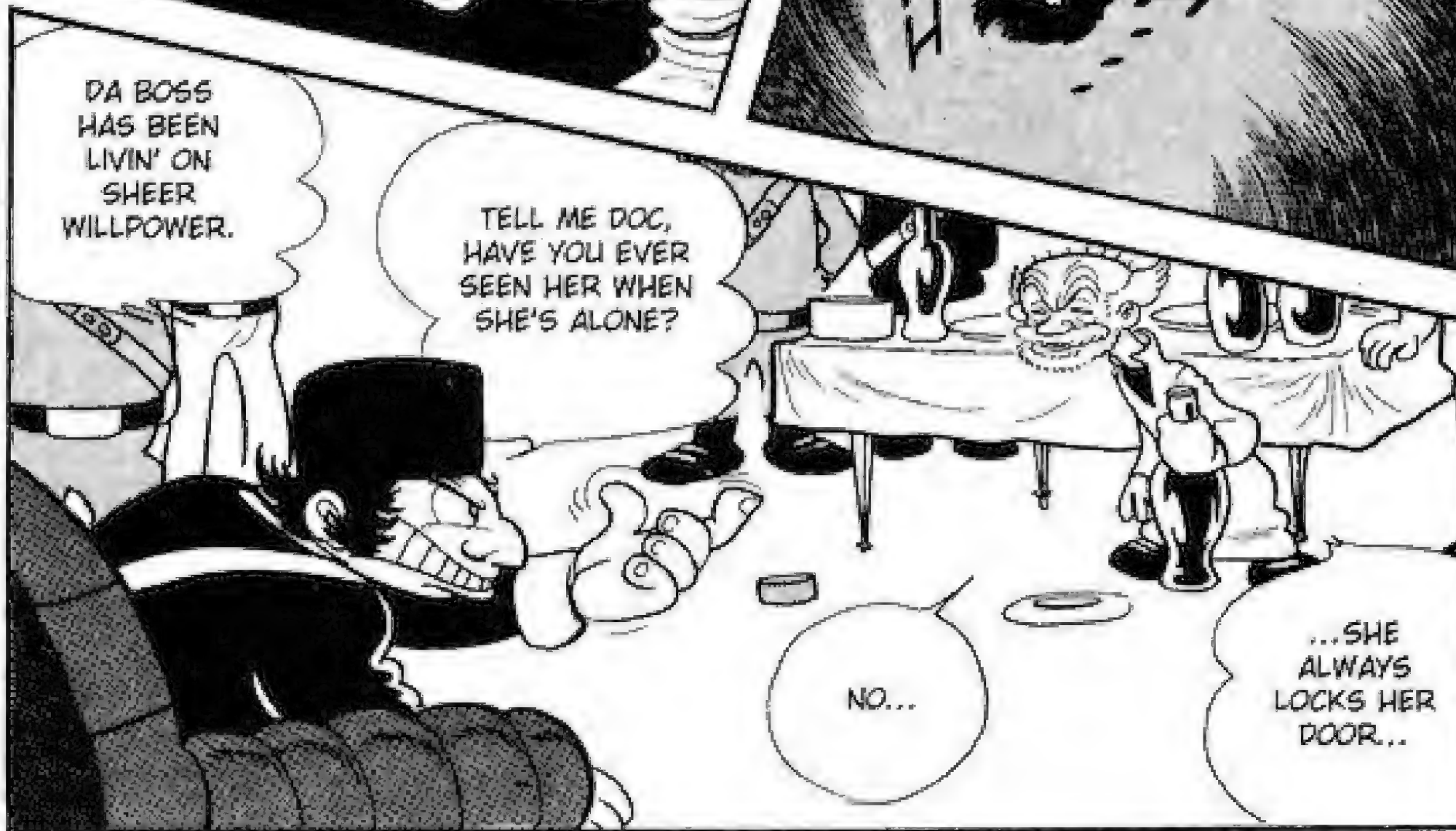






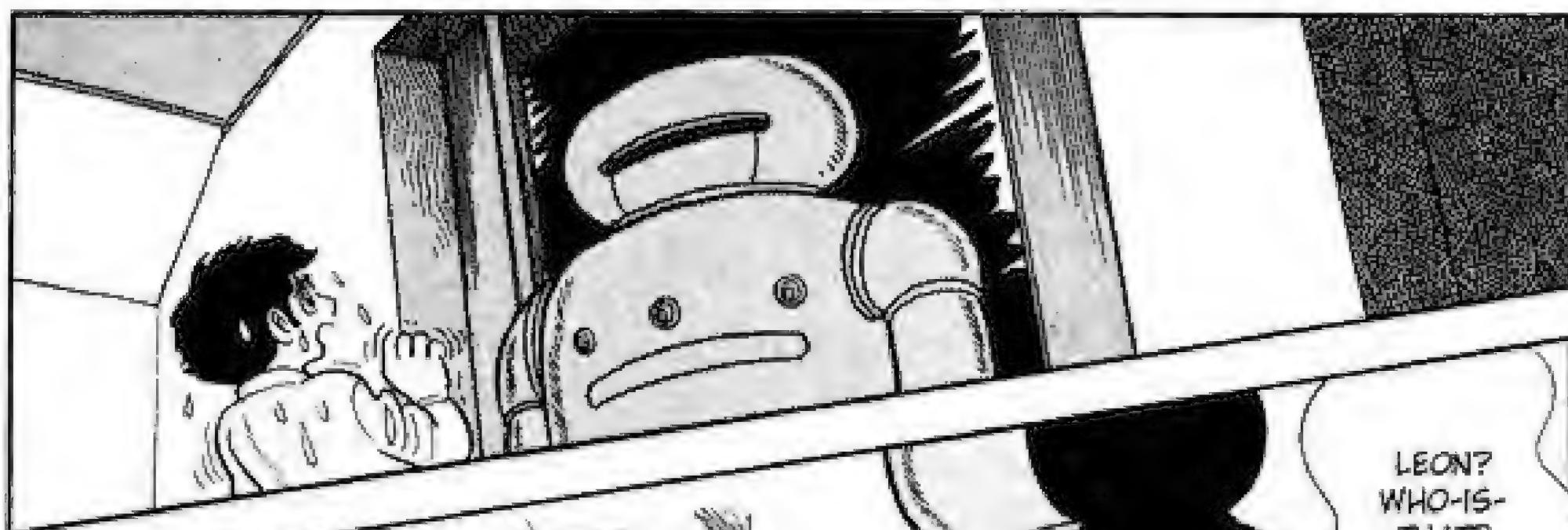












LEON?
WHO-IS-
THAT?



H... HELP...
ME... LEON...
I'M IN PAIN...

I'M-SORRY,
BUT-THAT-DOES-
NOT-COMPUTE.
I-SEEM-TO-BE-
GRADUALLY-
FORGETTING-
THE-PAST.



LEON...
YOU'RE LEON...
THE ONE WHO
GAVE ME
HIS BODY...

I-AM-
A-ROBOT.
CHIHRO-
NUMBER-
6-1-2-9-8.

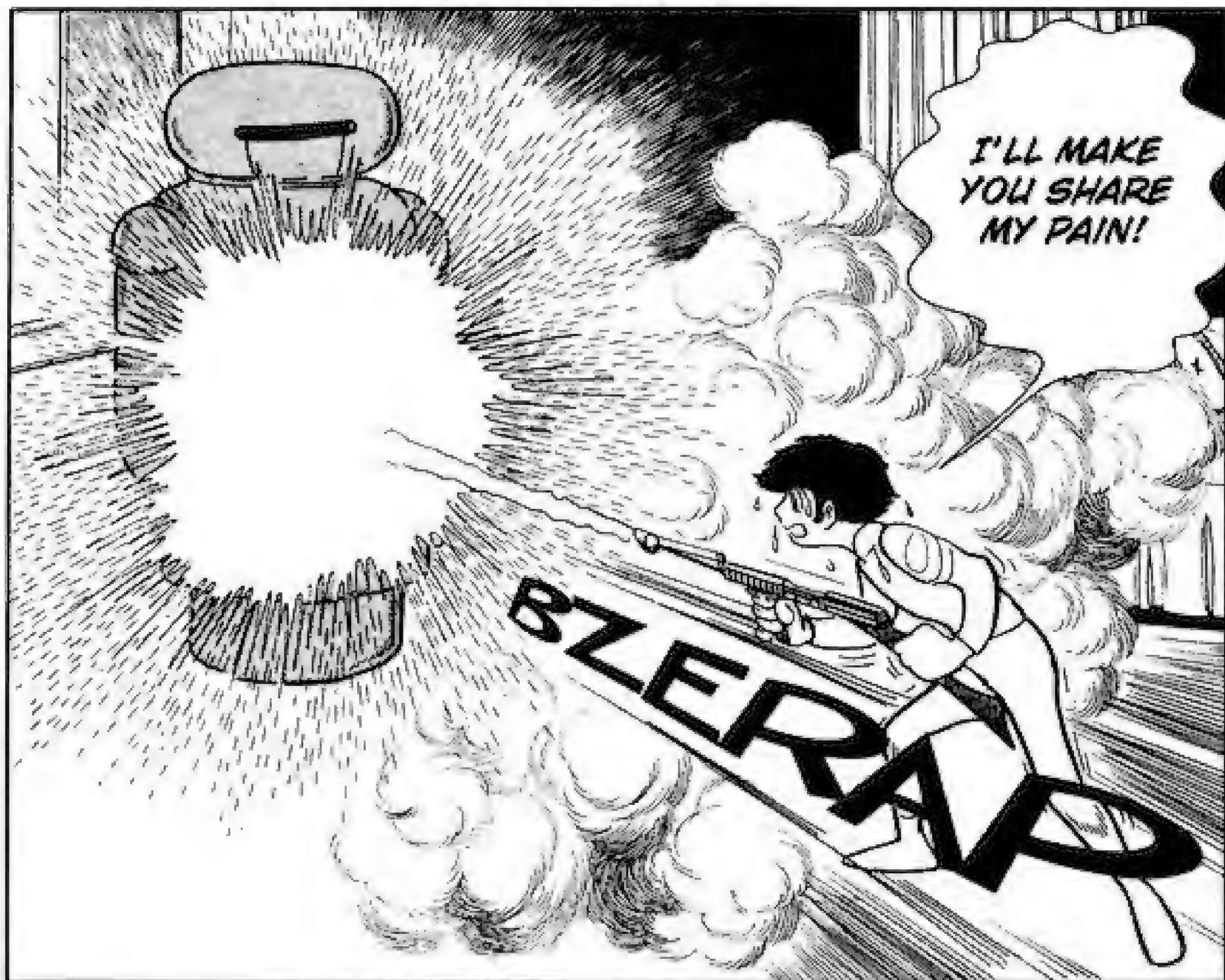


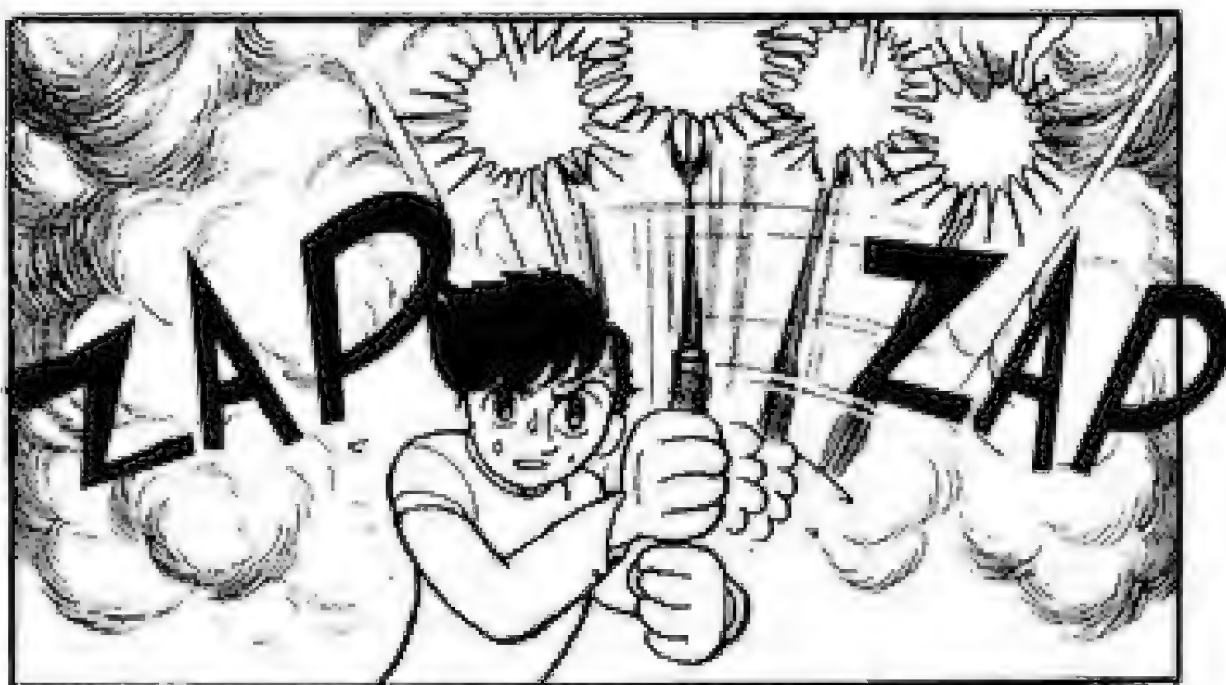
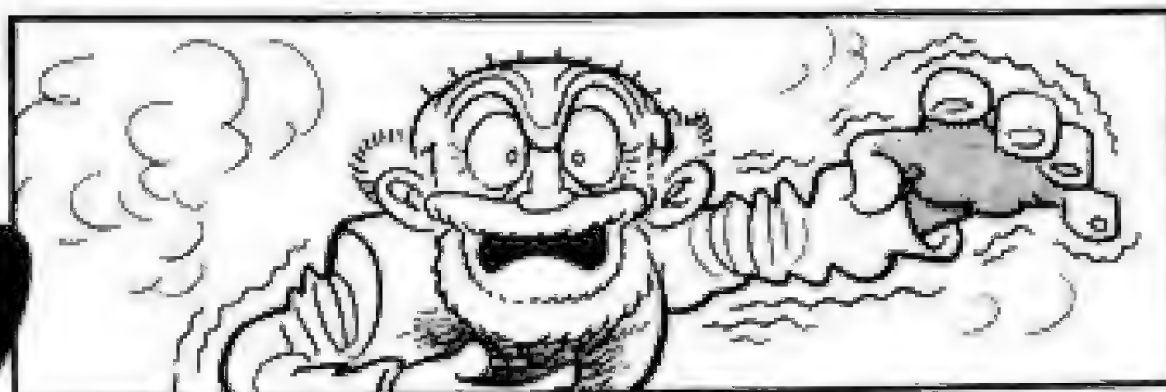
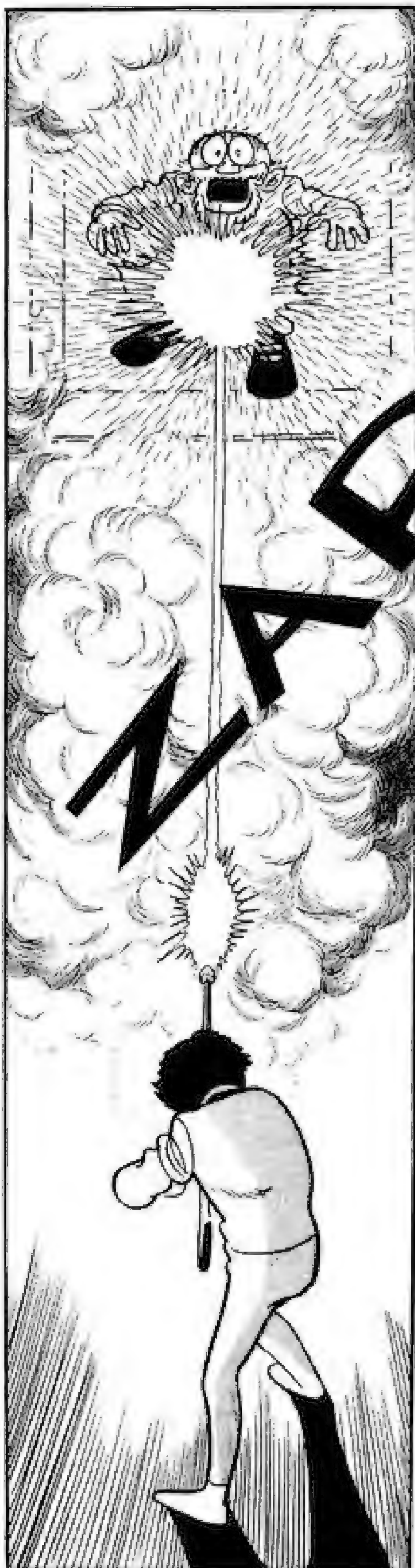
PLEASE...
TRY AND
REMEMBER!
I LOVED YOU!
THAT'S WHY I
USED YOUR
BODY FOR THE
OPERATION!

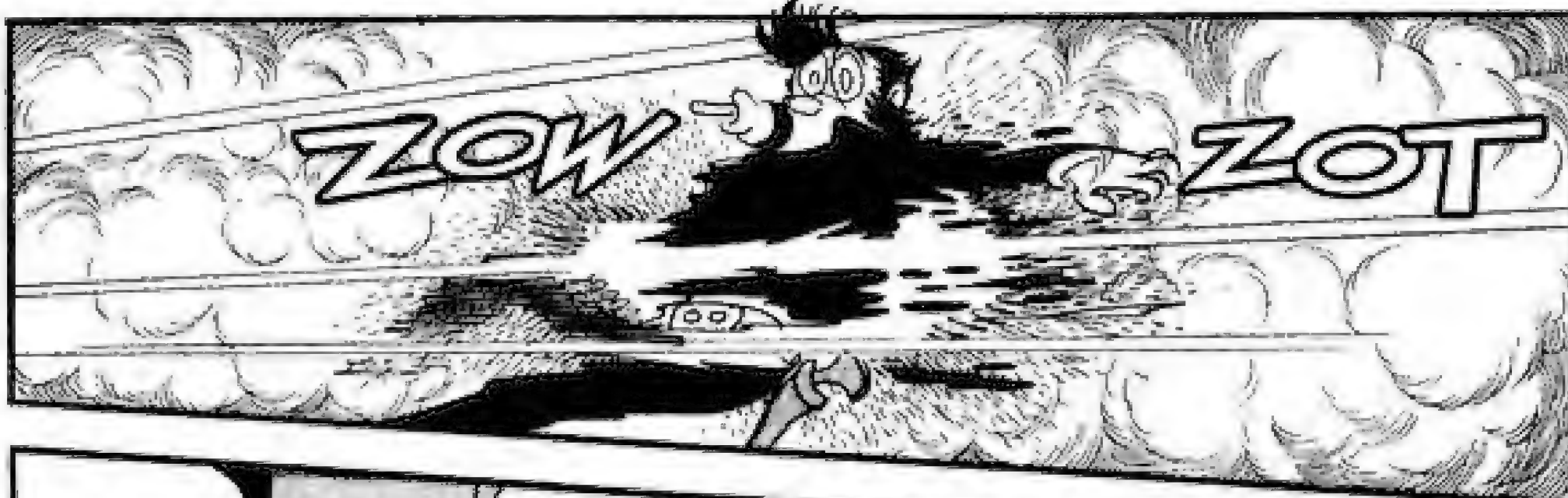


NO!

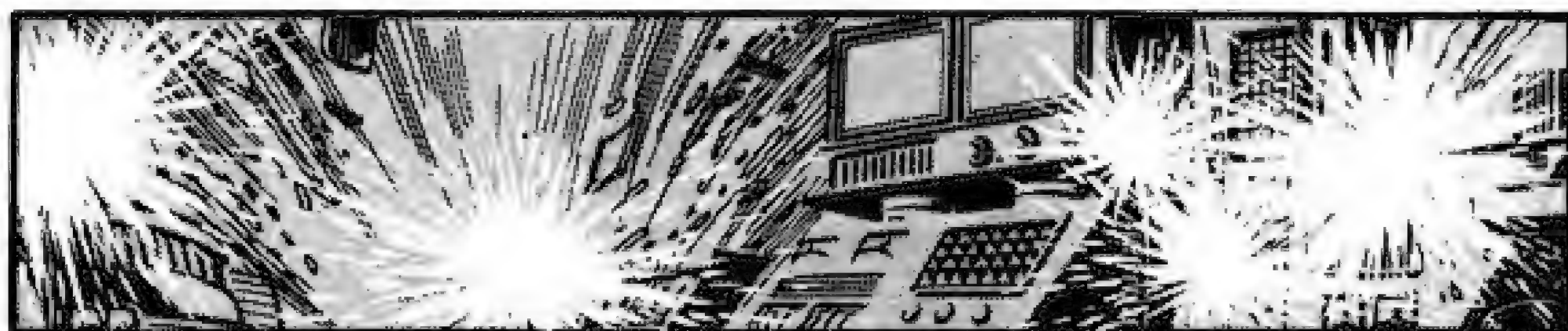




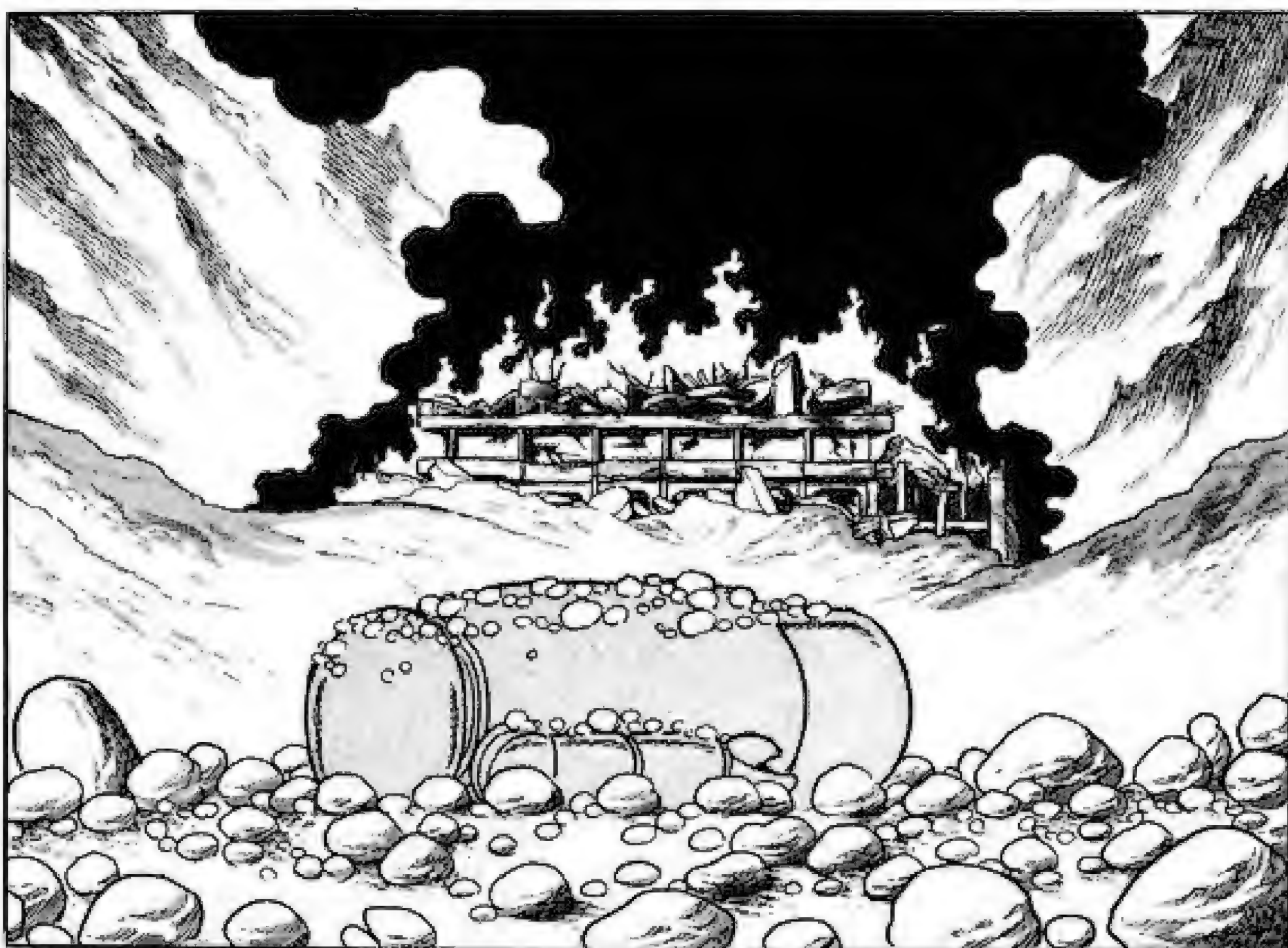
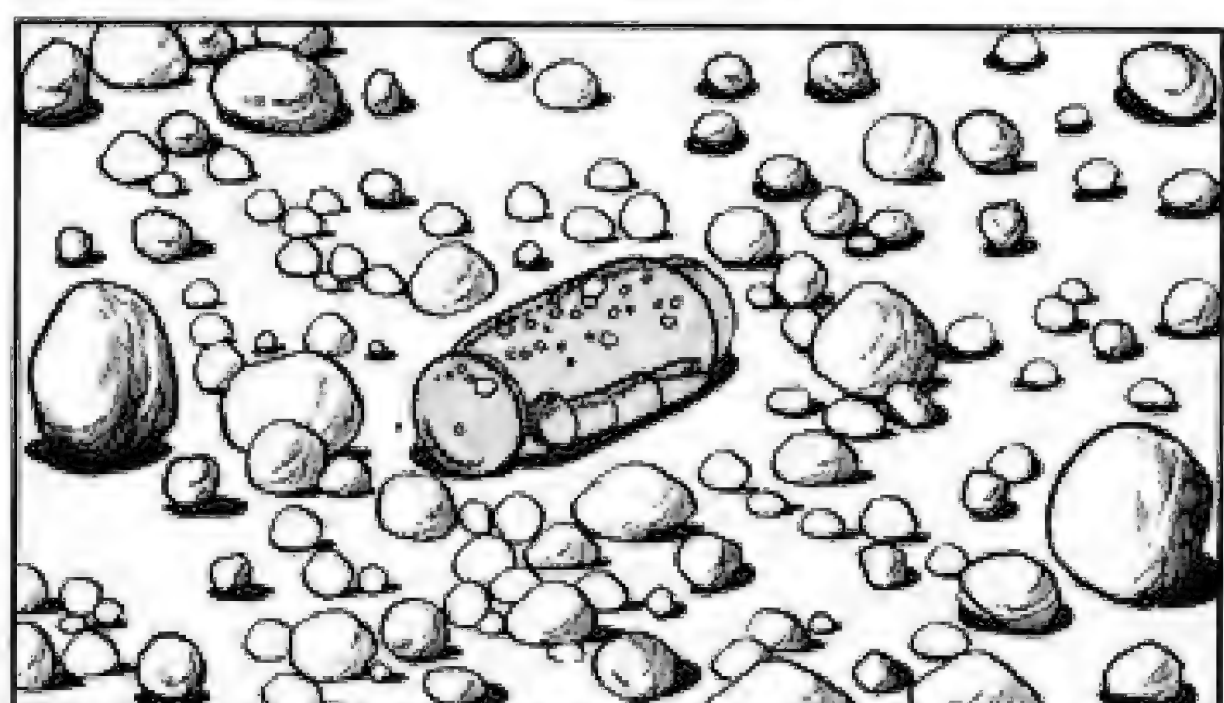
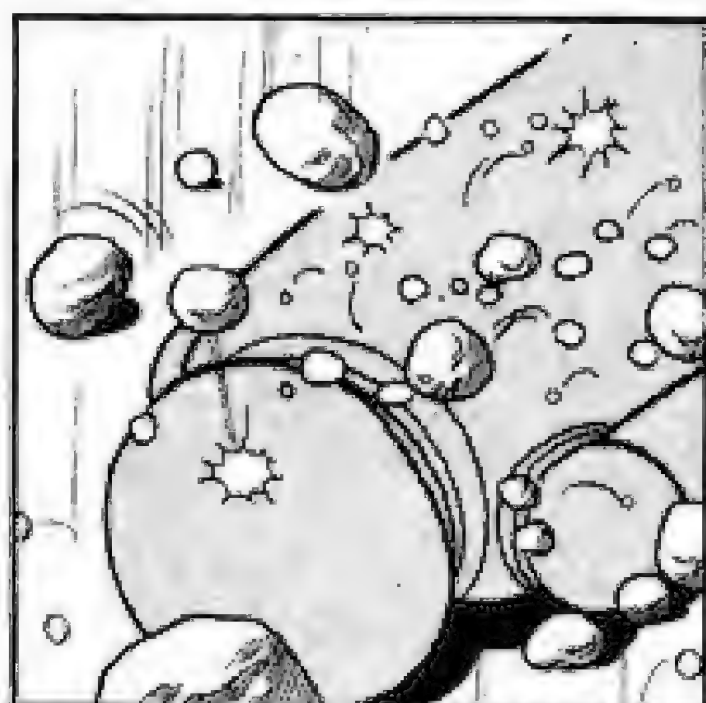
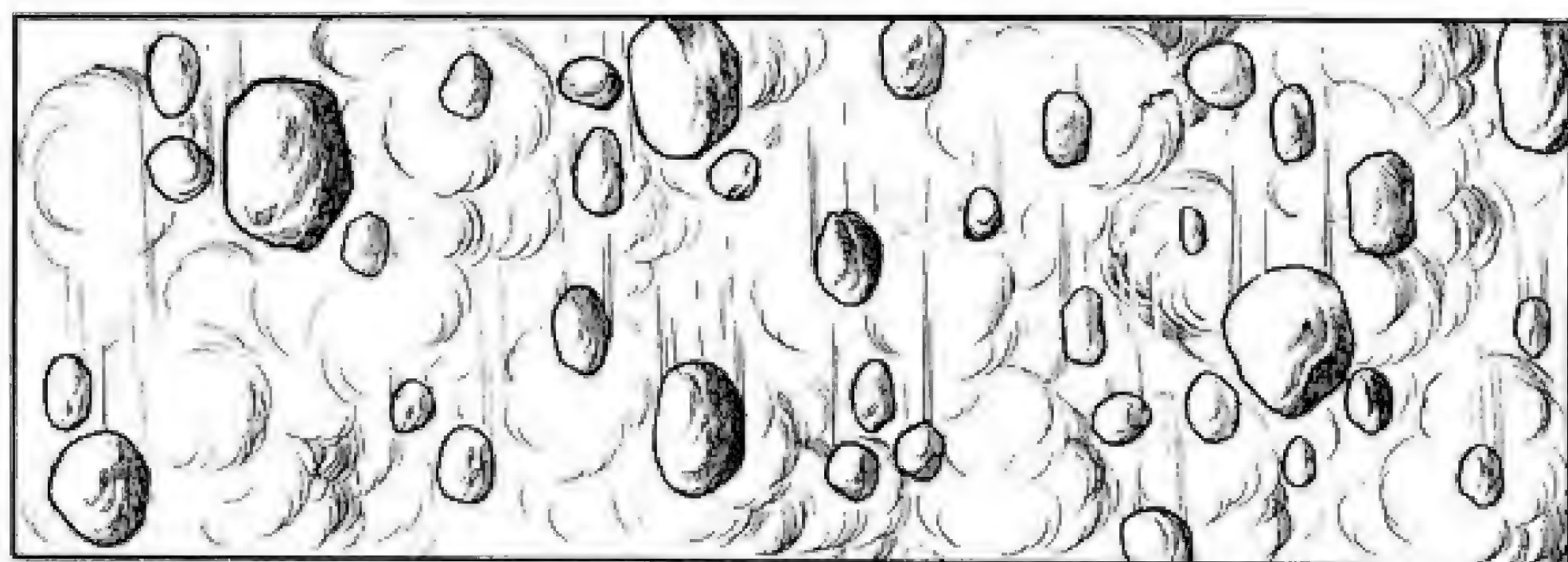


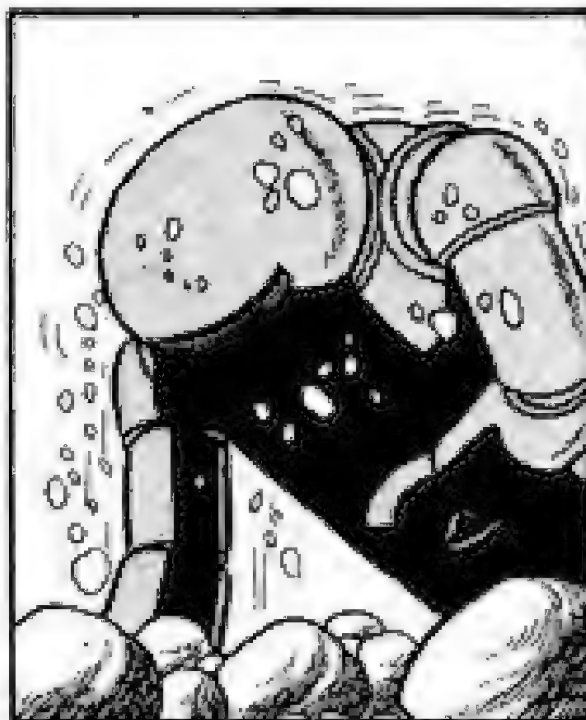
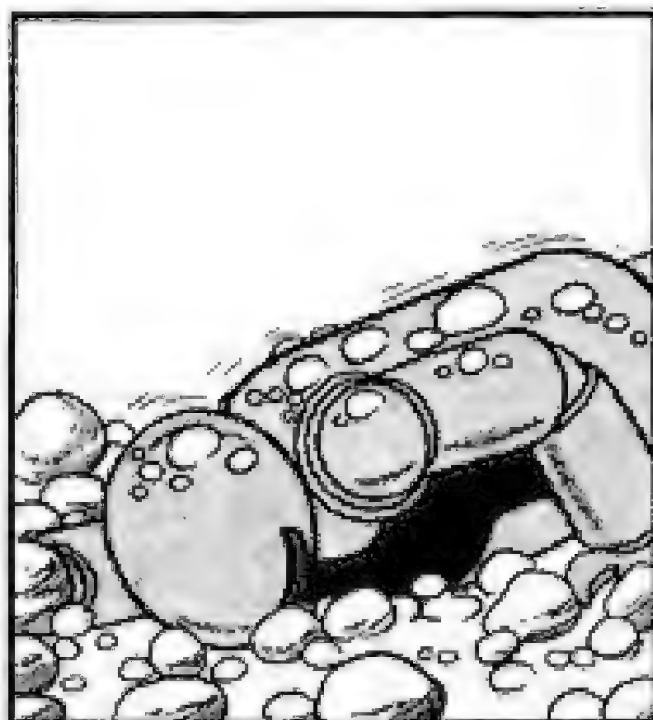




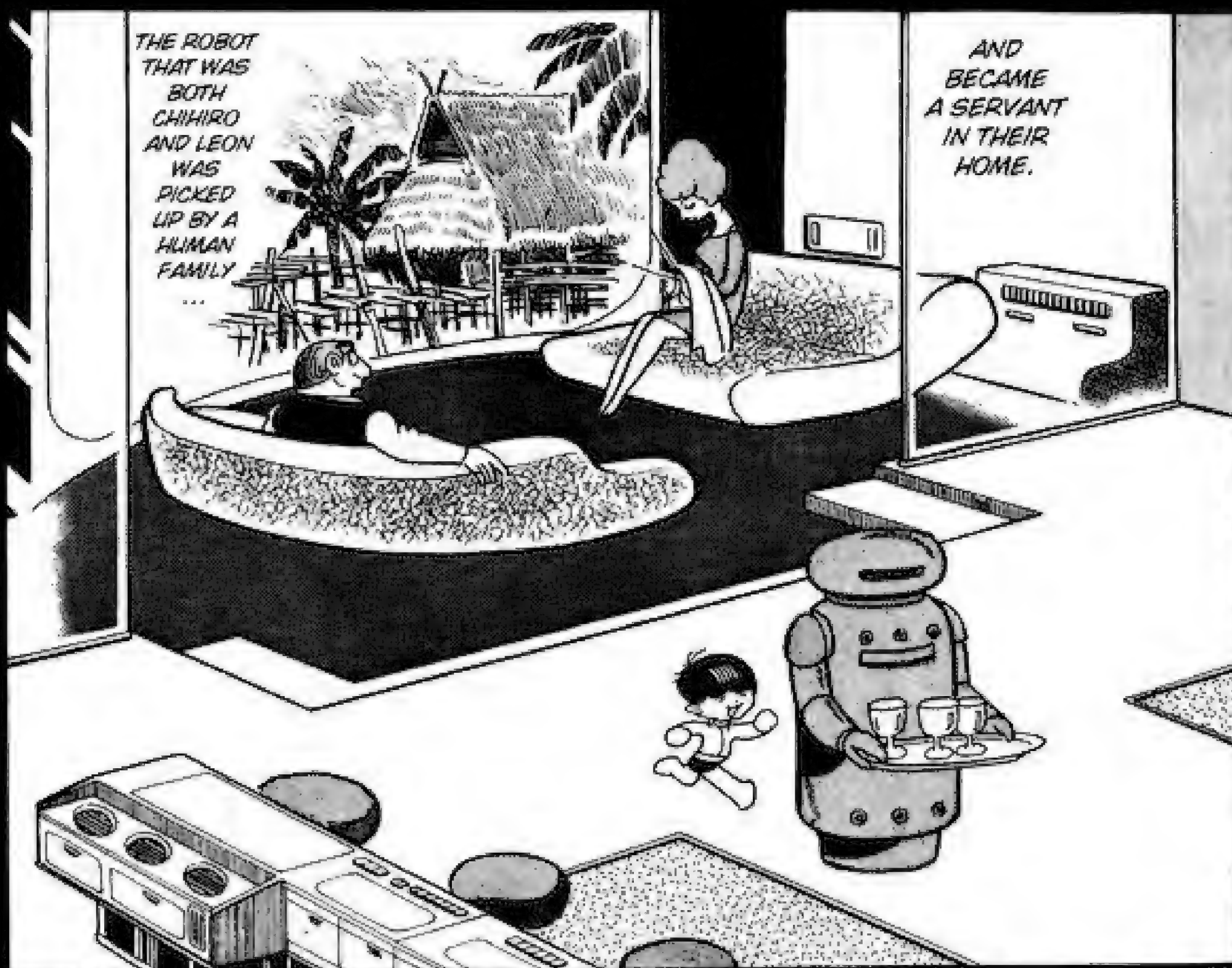




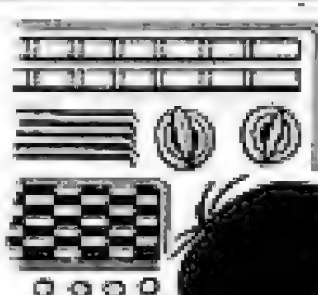




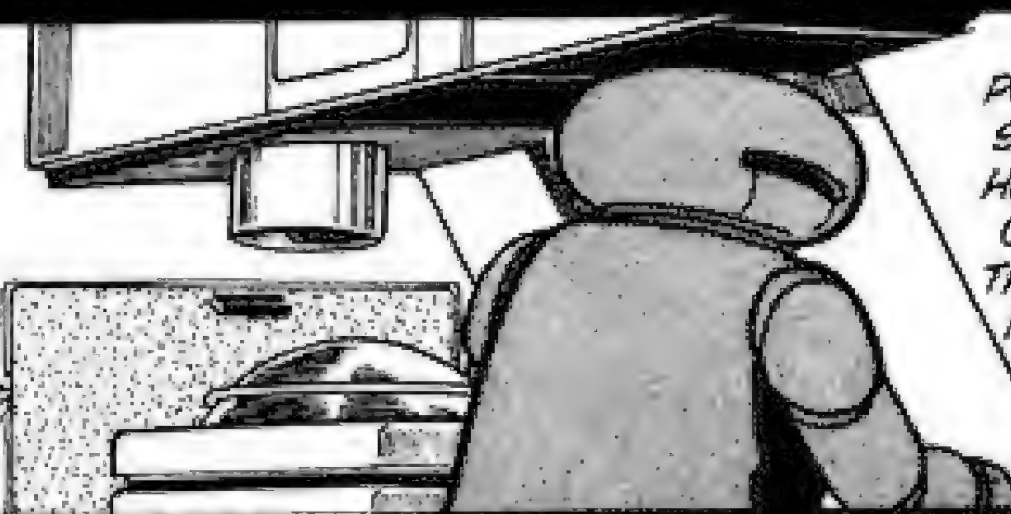
AD 2917



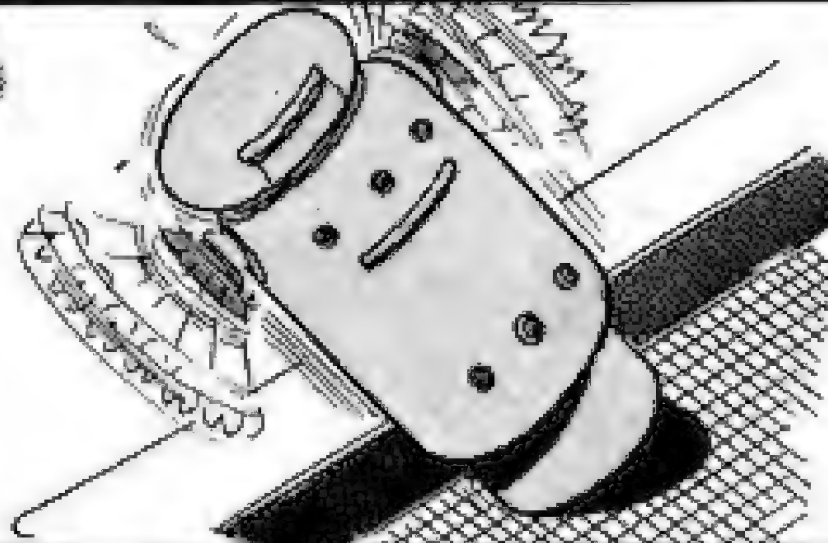
BECAUSE IT
WAS
SOMEHOW
DIFFERENT
FROM OTHER
ROBOTS...



...AND
POSSESSED
SOME VERY
HUMAN-LIKE
QUALITIES,
THEY NAMED
IT ROBITA.

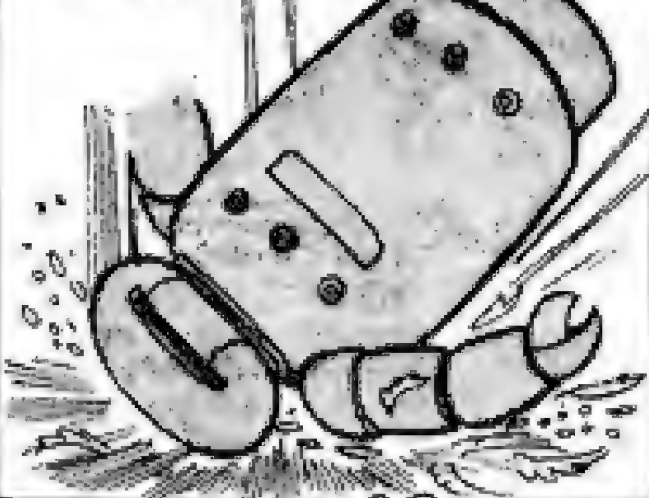


HOW WAS
ROBITA
DIFFERENT
YOU ASK?



FIRST OF ALL, IT
DIDN'T BEHAVE
WITH A COM-
PUTER'S USUAL
MACHINE-LIKE
PRECISION...

ROBITA WAS
MORE HUMAN
LIKE IN ITS
ACTIONS.



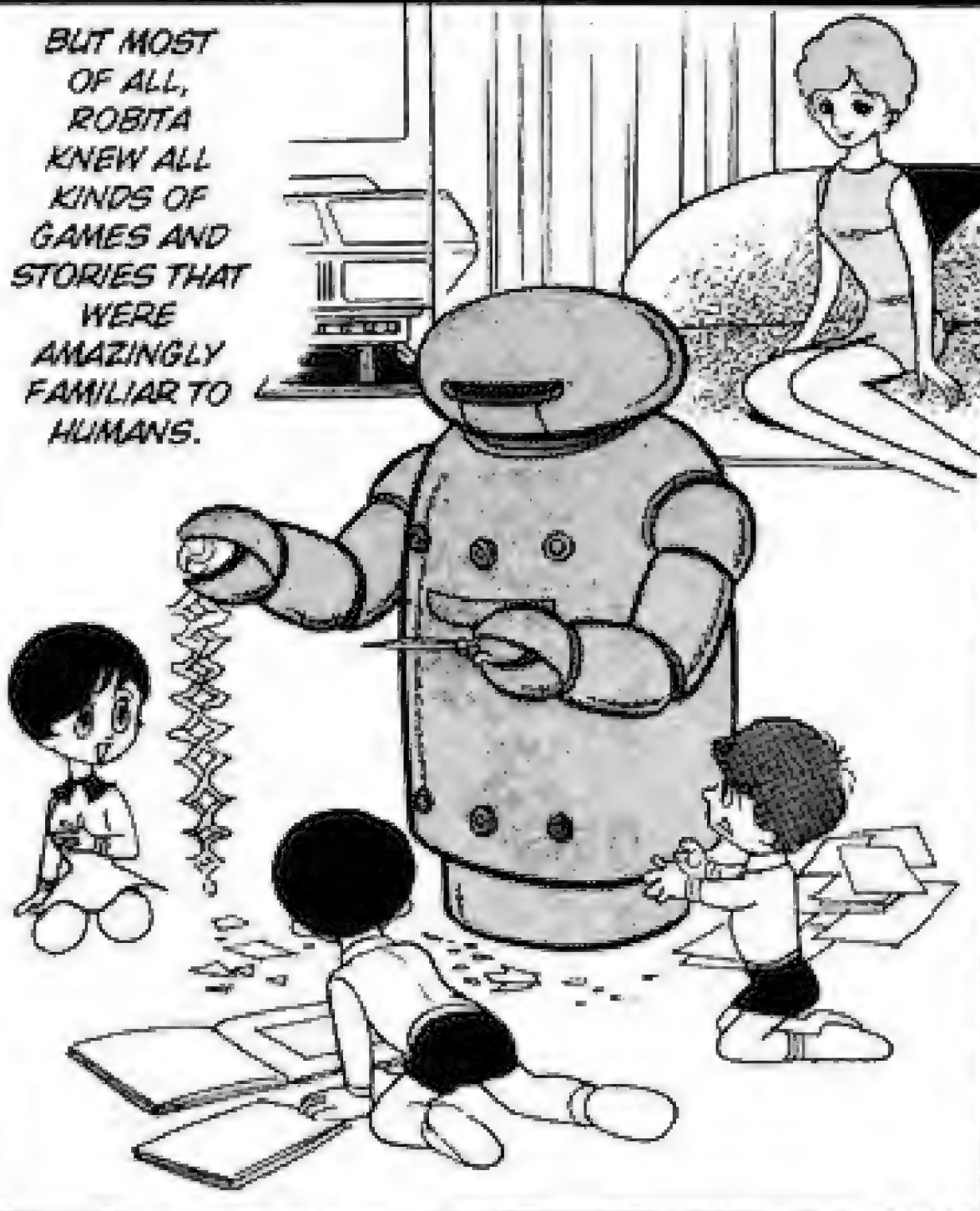
IT WOULD
MAKE
MISTAKES,
FOR
EXAMPLE.



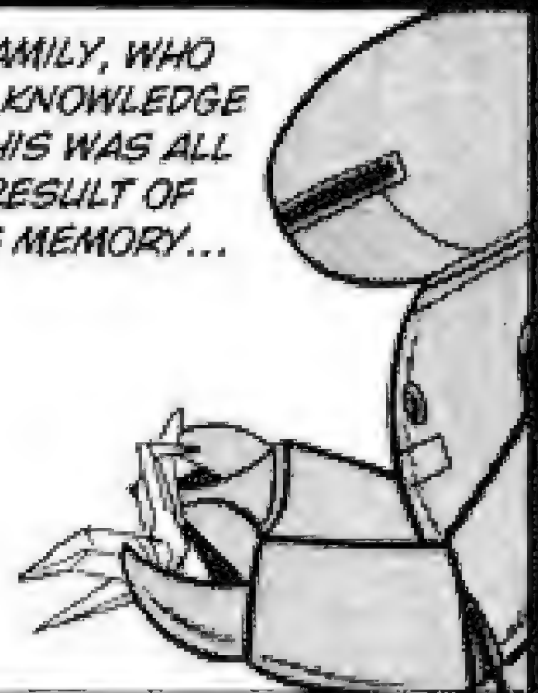
AND IT HAD
HUMAN-LIKE
MOODS THAT
WOULD CHANGE
WITHOUT
NOTICE...



BUT MOST
OF ALL,
ROBITA
KNEW ALL
KINDS OF
GAMES AND
STORIES THAT
WERE
AMAZINGLY
FAMILIAR TO
HUMANS.



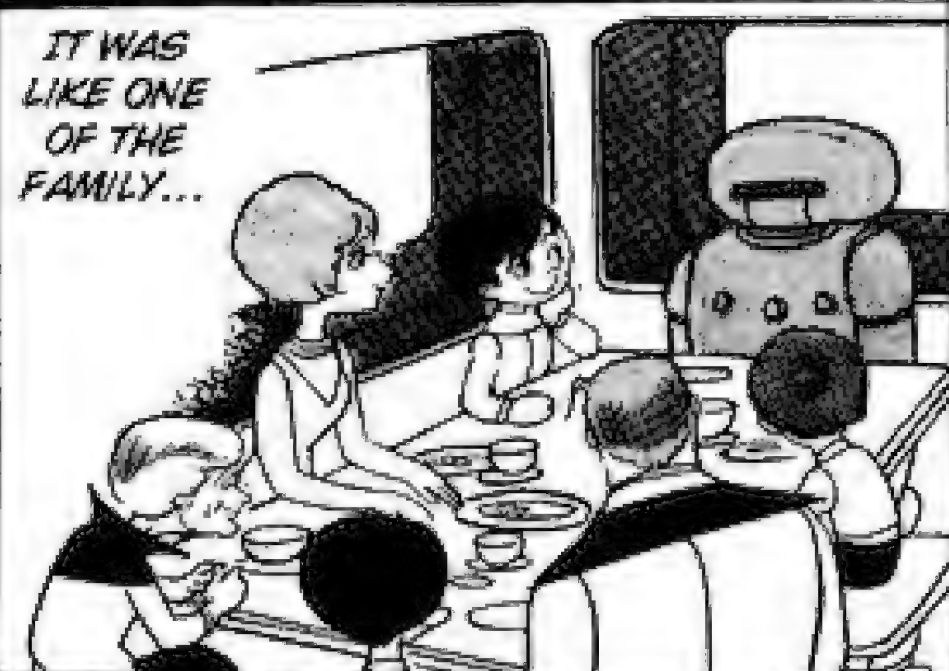
THE FAMILY, WHO
HAD NO KNOWLEDGE
THAT THIS WAS ALL
THE RESULT OF
LEON'S MEMORY...



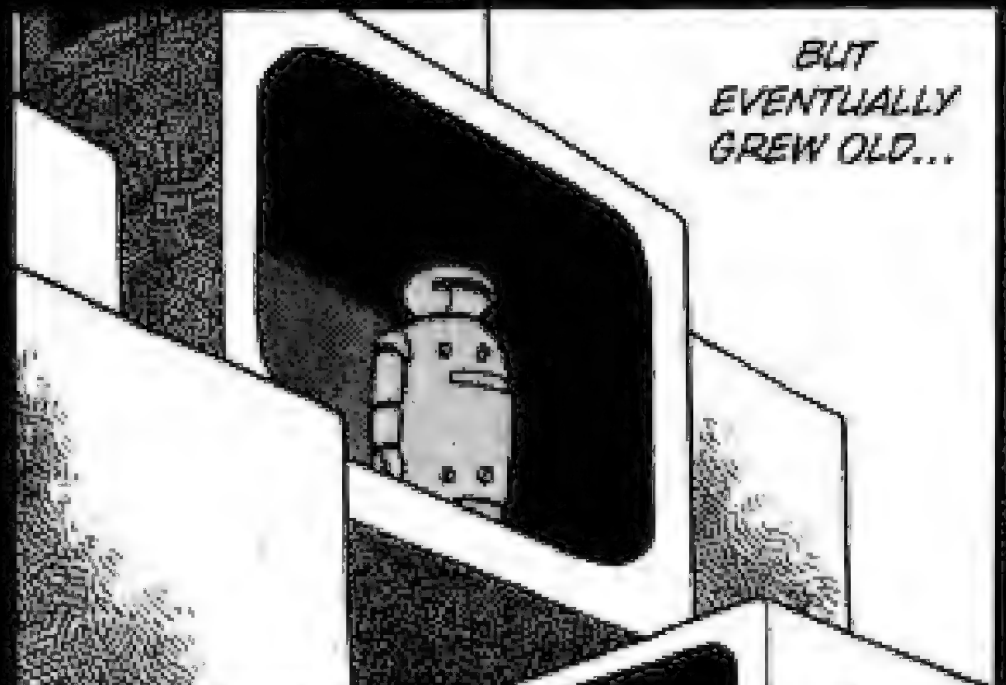
...TREATED
ROBITA
WITH LOVING
CARE.



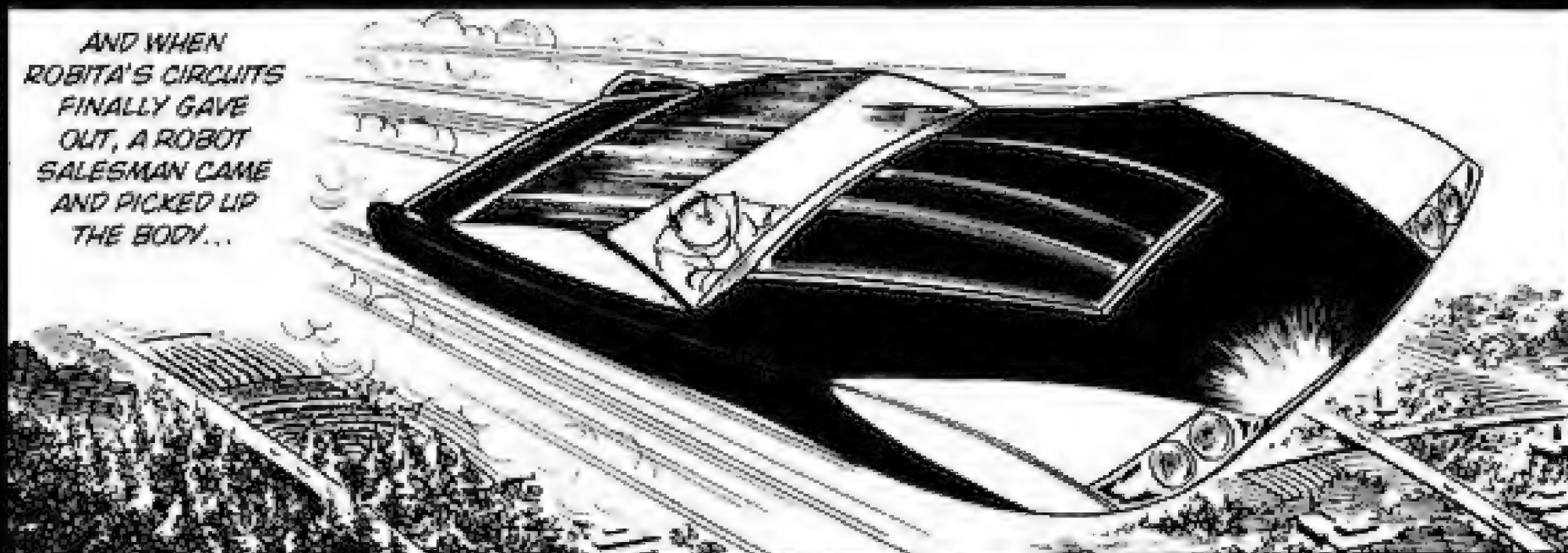
IT WAS
LIKE ONE
OF THE
FAMILY...



BUT
EVENTUALLY
GREW OLD...

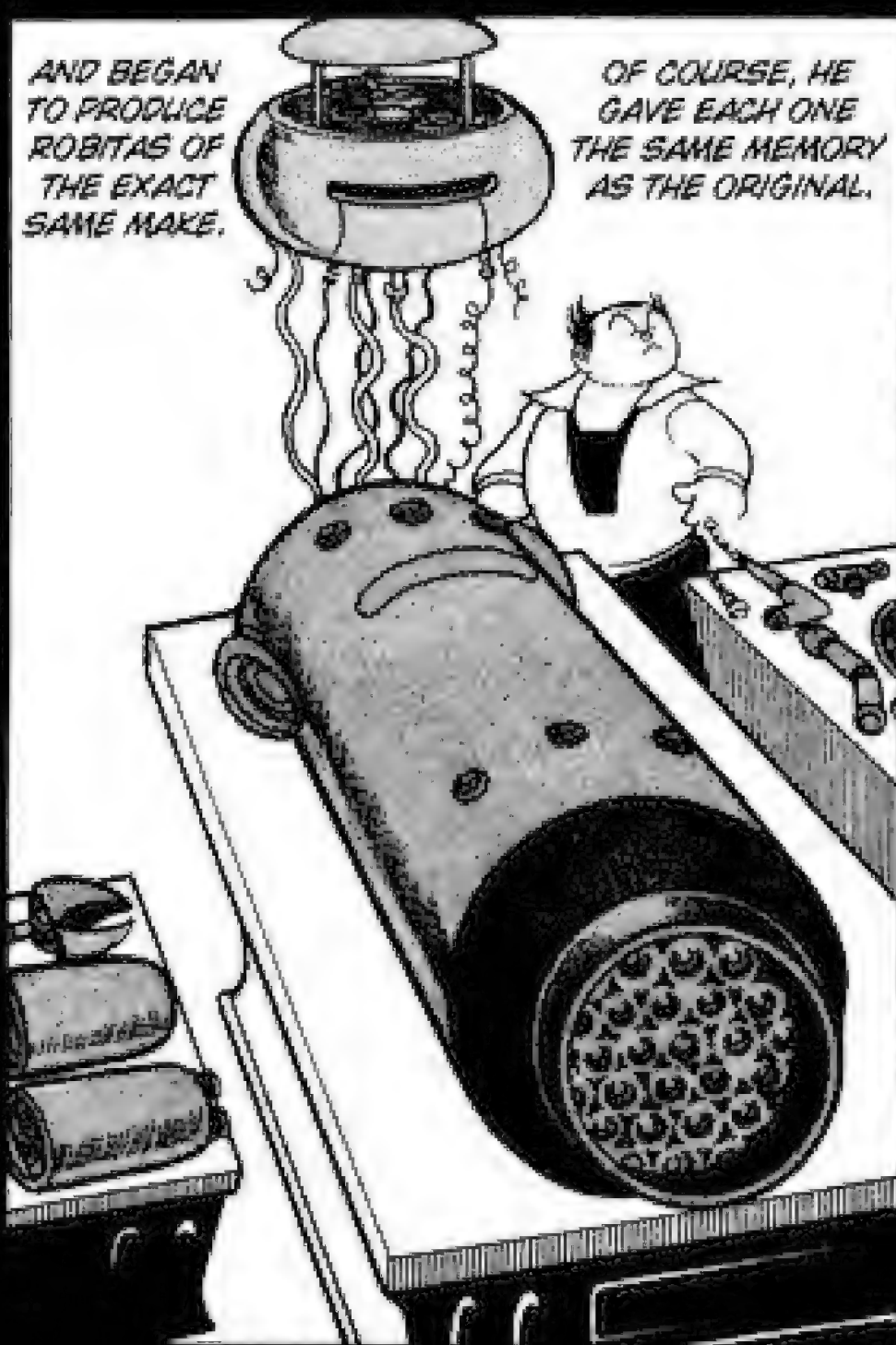


AND WHEN
ROBITA'S CIRCUITS
FINALLY GAVE
OUT, A ROBOT
SALESMAN CAME
AND PICKED UP
THE BODY...

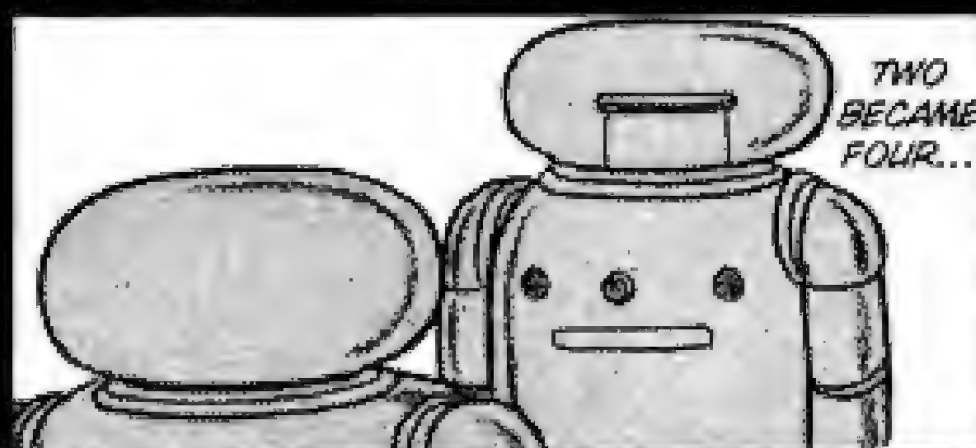


AND BEGAN
TO PRODUCE
ROBITAS OF
THE EXACT
SAME MAKE.

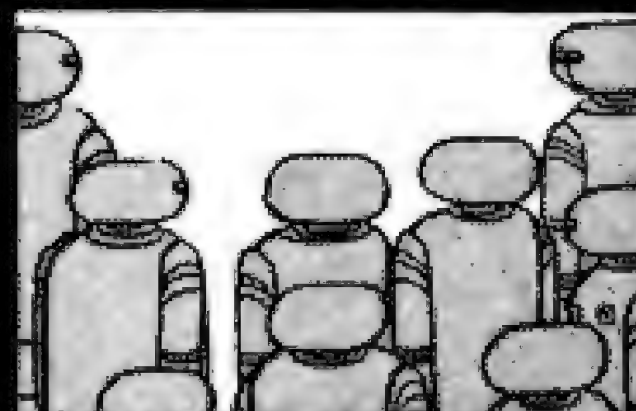
OF COURSE, HE
GAVE EACH ONE
THE SAME MEMORY
AS THE ORIGINAL.



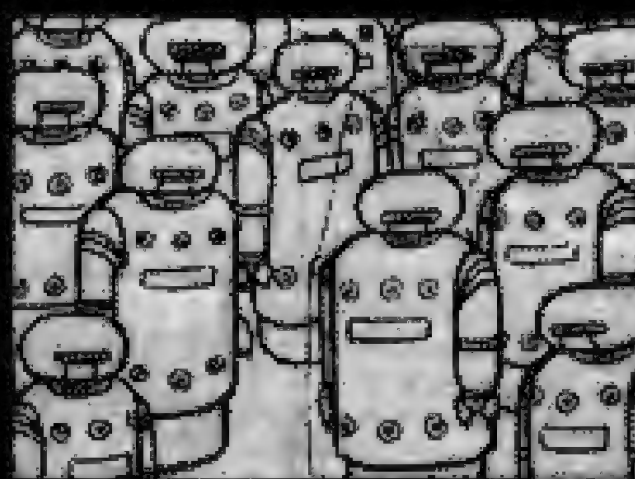
TWO
BECAME
FOUR...



FOUR
BECAME
EIGHT...

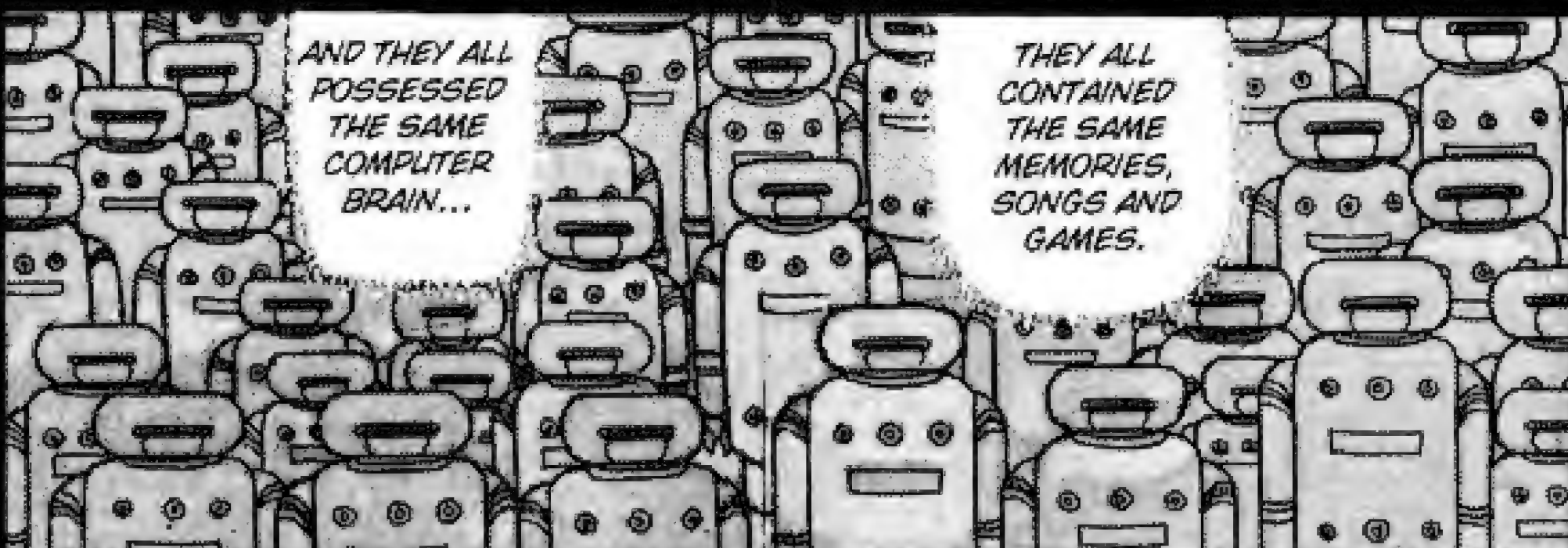


THE NUMBER
OF ROBITA'S
INCREASED.

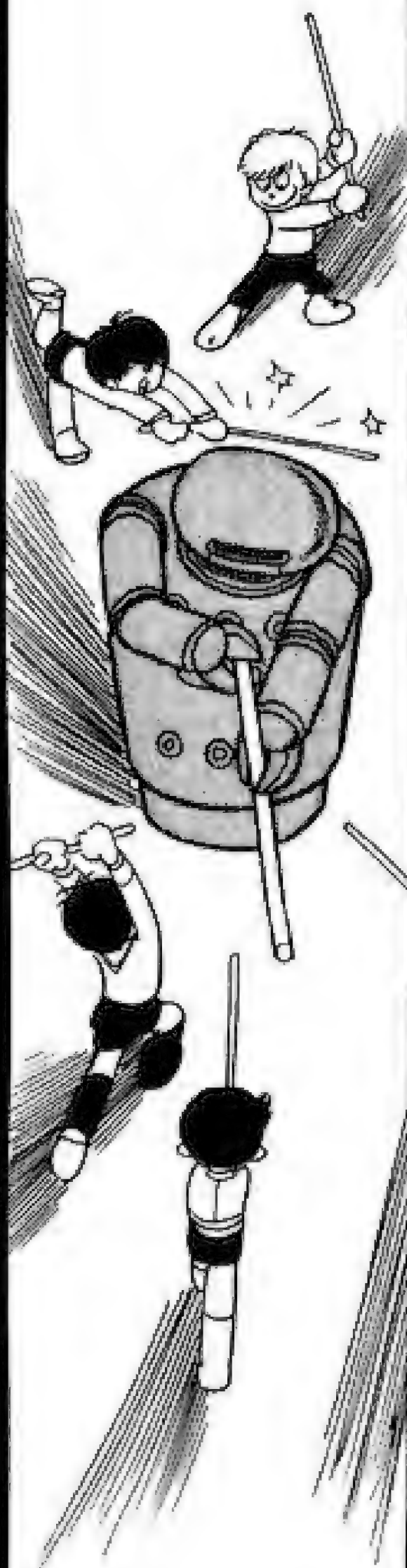


AND THEY ALL
POSSESSED
THE SAME
COMPUTER
BRAIN...

THEY ALL
CONTAINED
THE SAME
MEMORIES,
SONGS AND
GAMES.



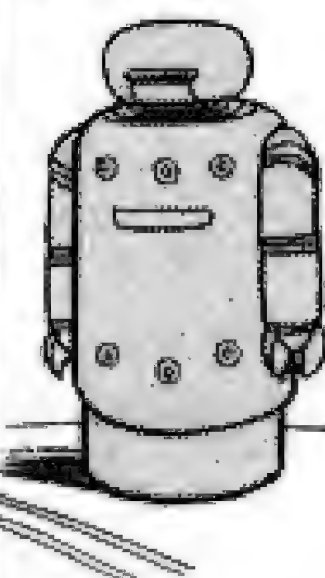
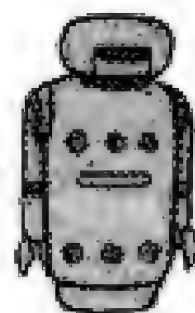
CHILDREN
INSTINCTIVELY
MADE ROBITAS
THEIR PLAYMATES.



AND EVEN
THOUGH ROBOT
TECHNOLOGY
IMPROVED, AND
MORE ADVANCED
ROBOTS WERE
PRODUCED...

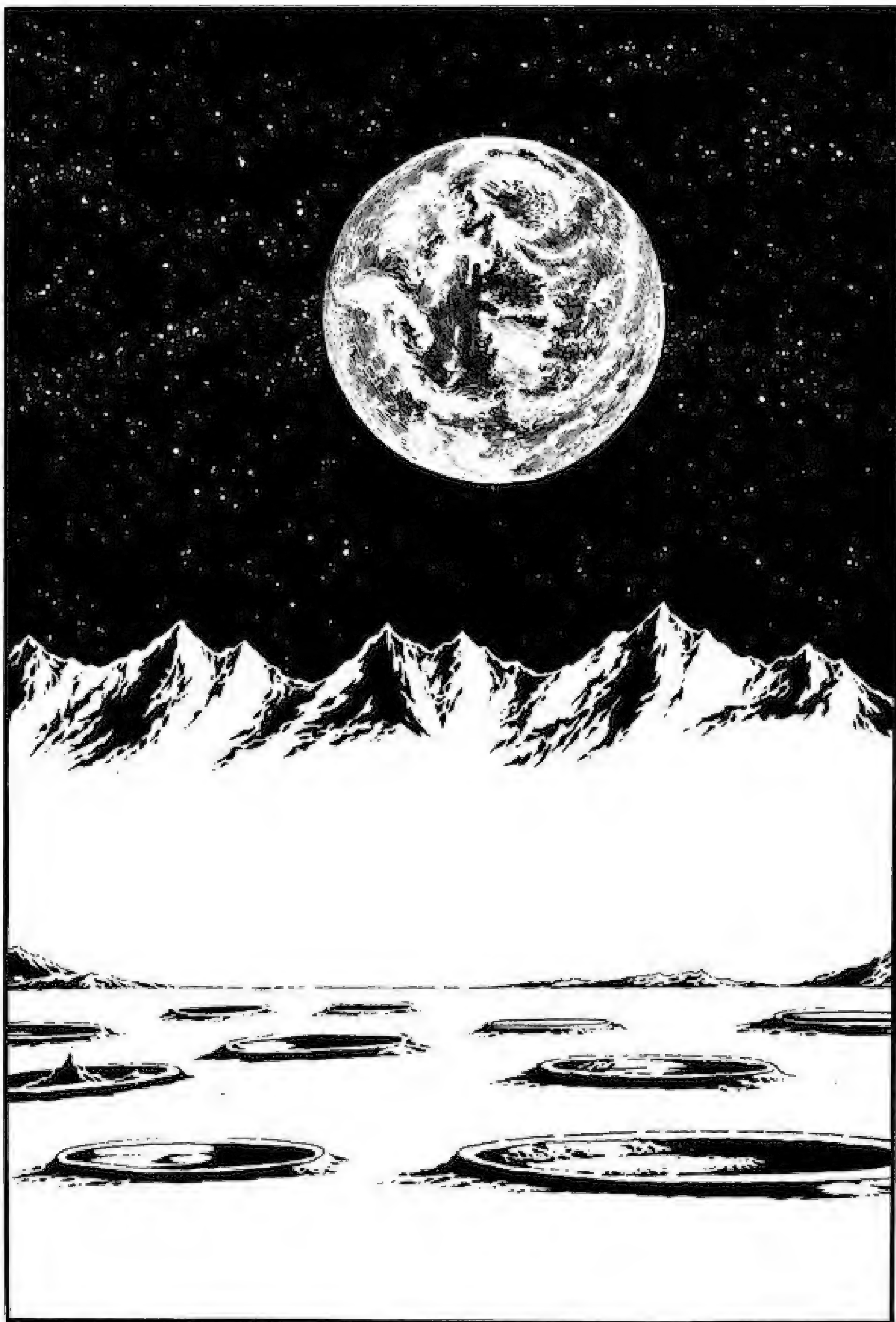


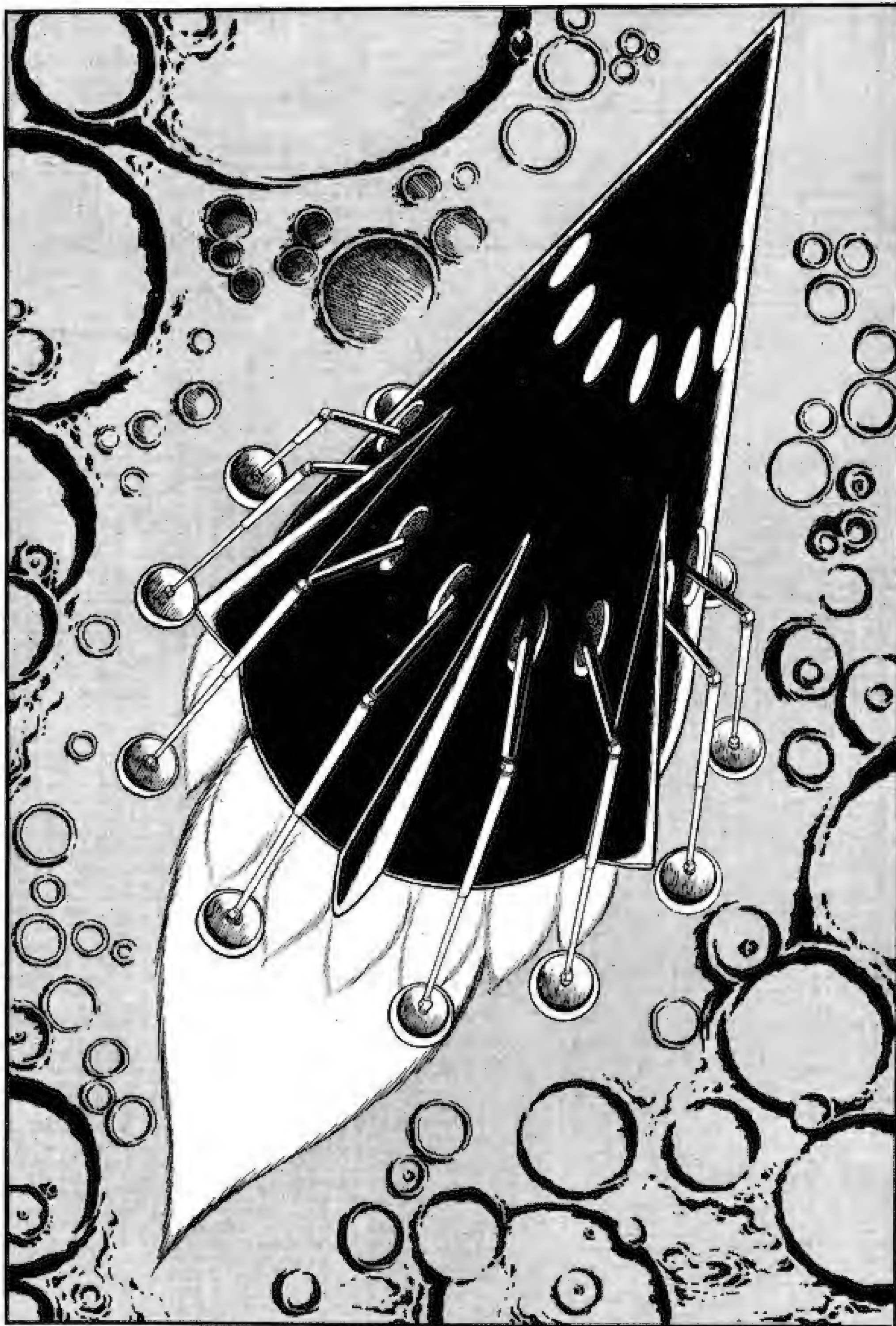
THE
ROBITAS
...

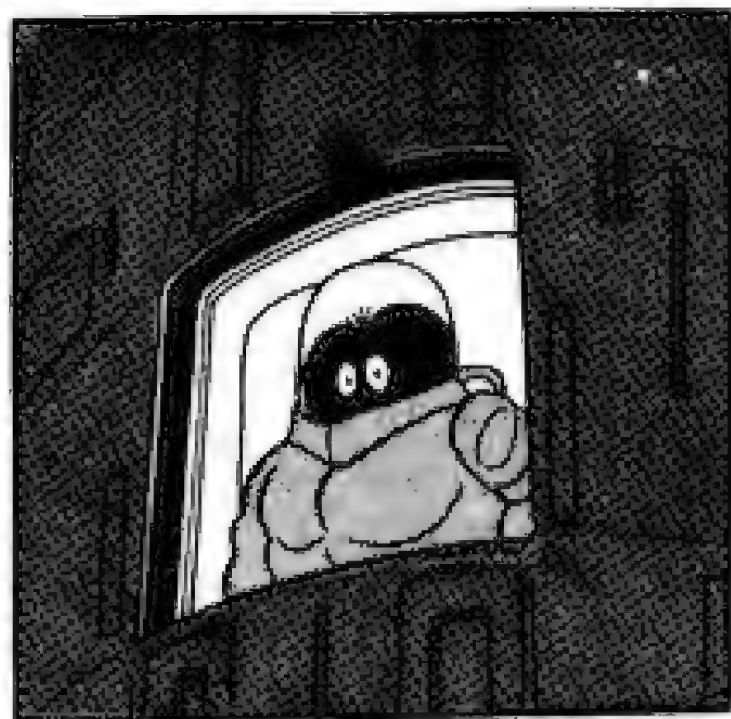
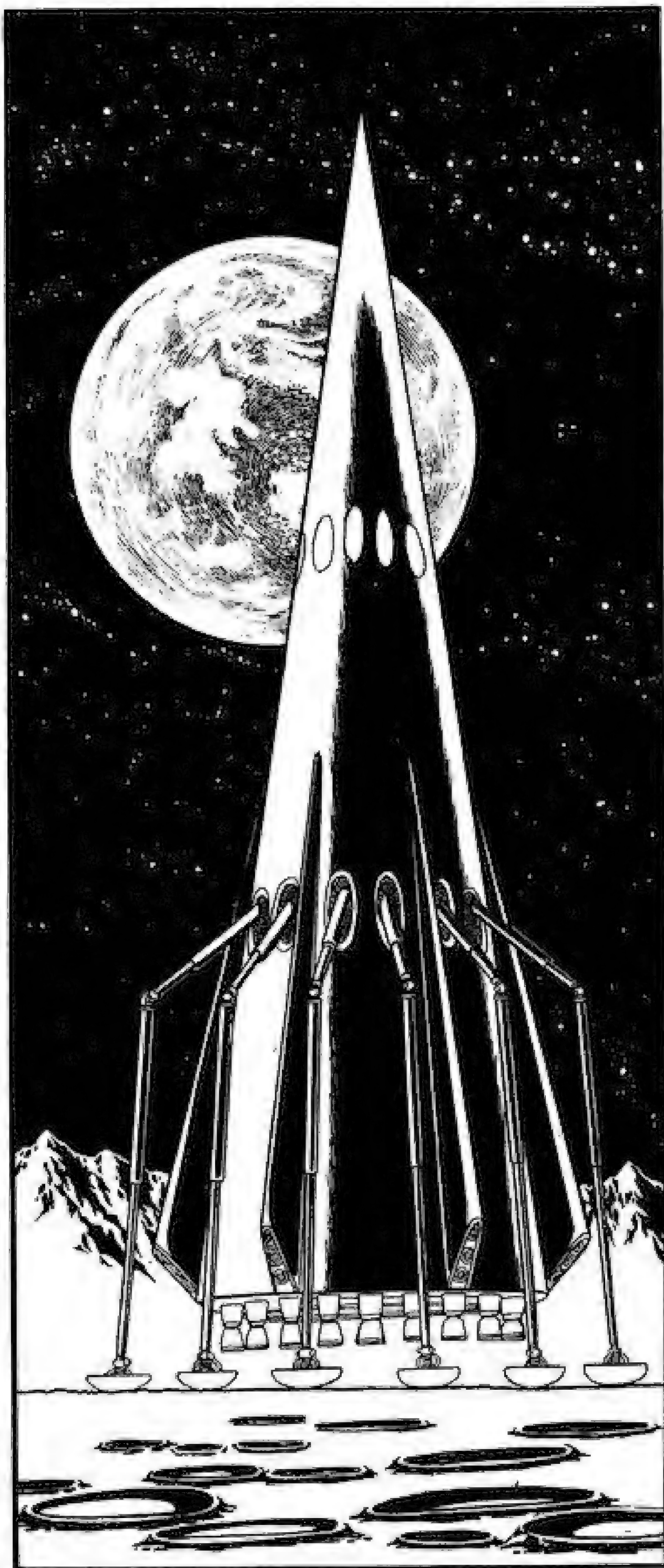


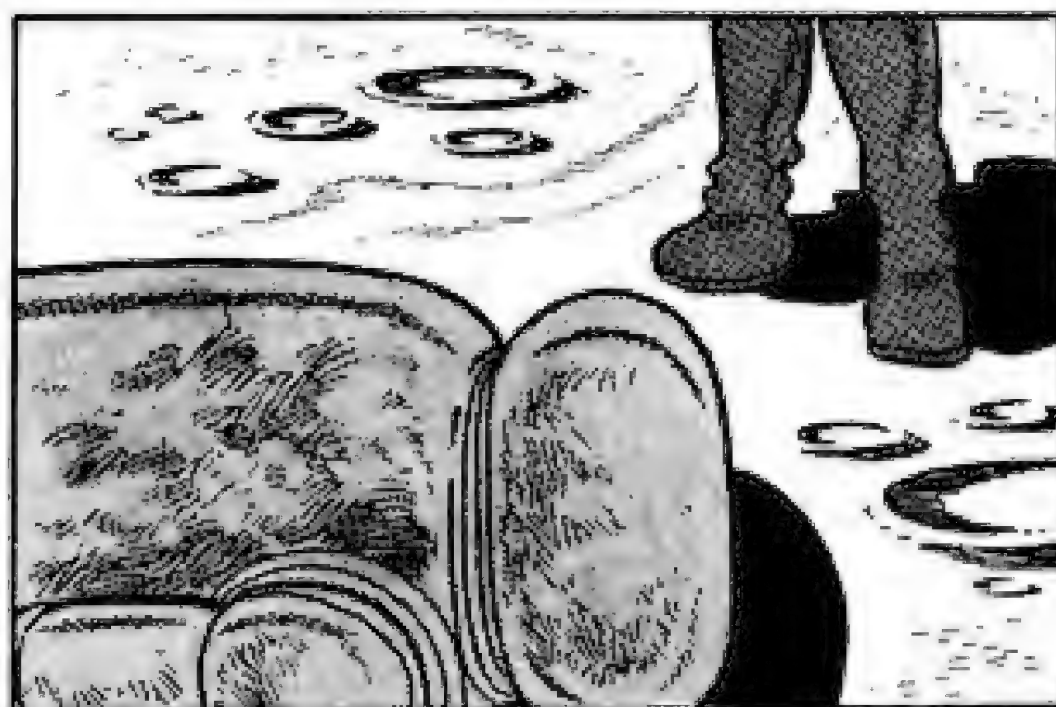
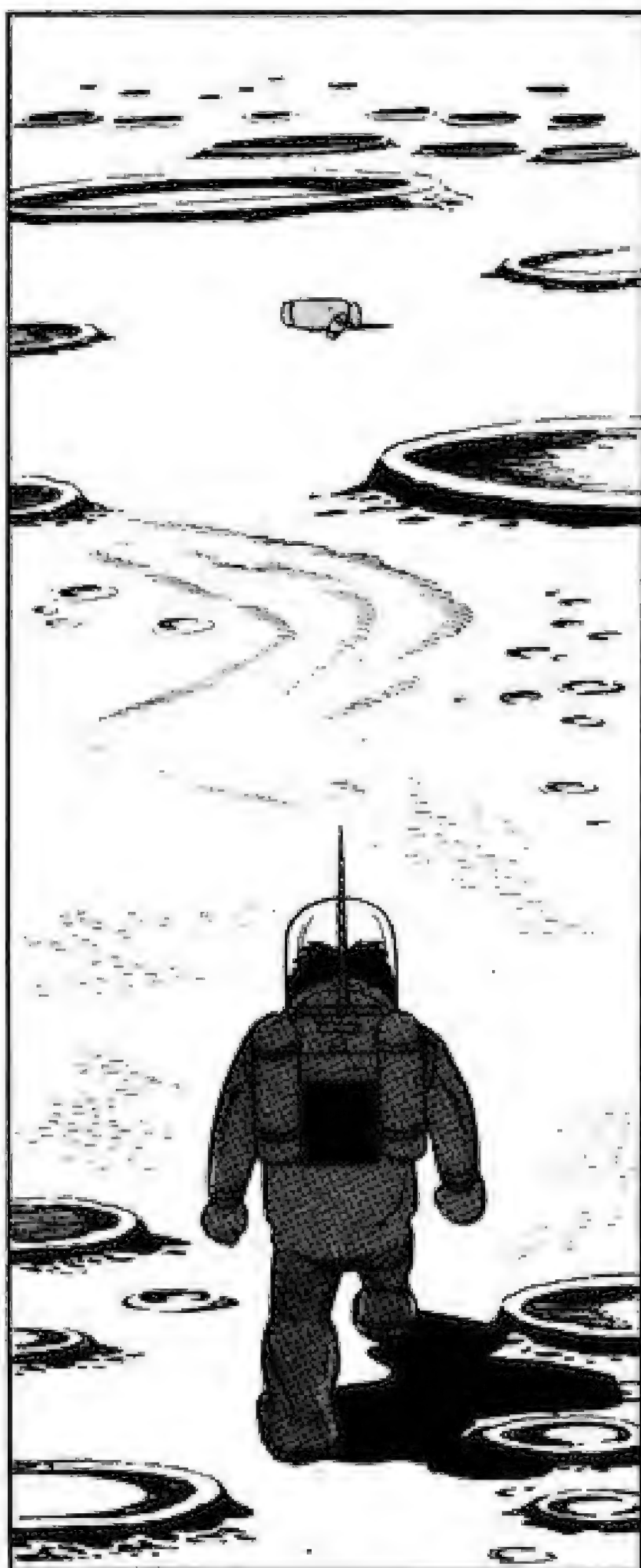
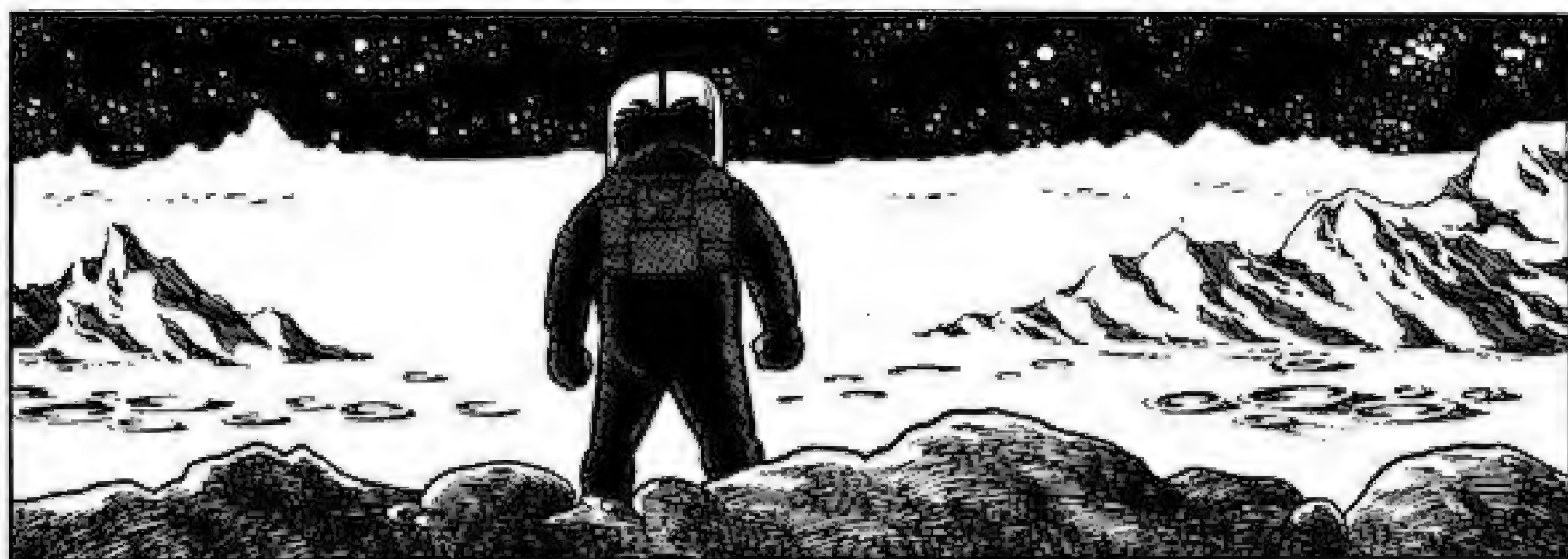
...
MAINTAINED
MAN'S RESPECT
...

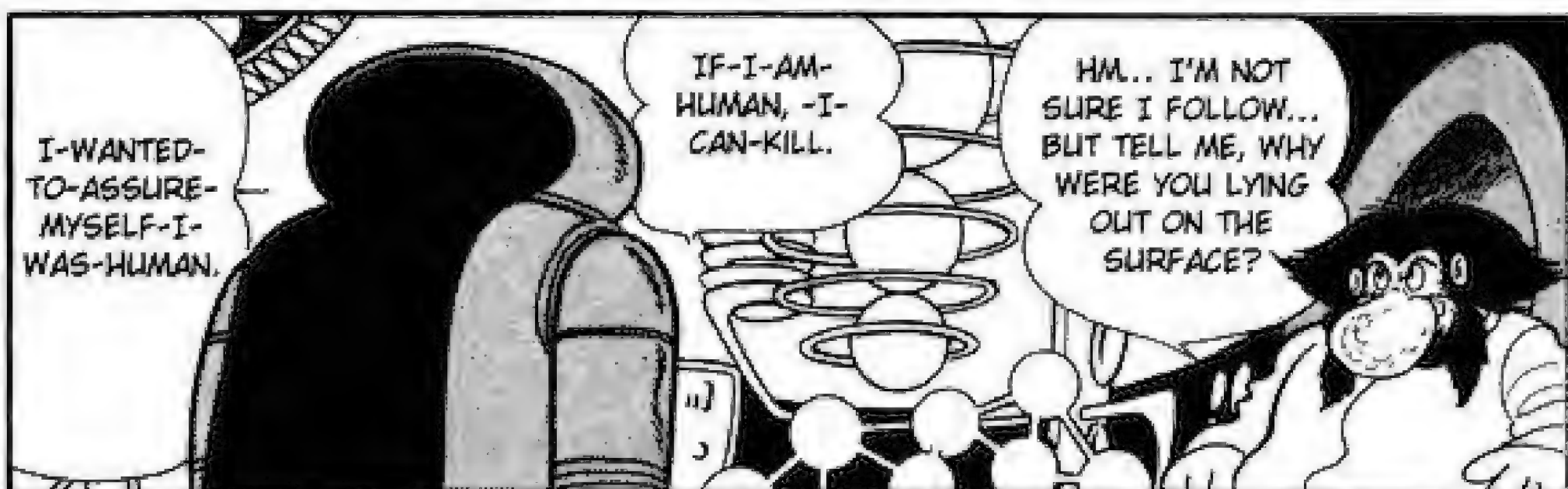
AD 3344

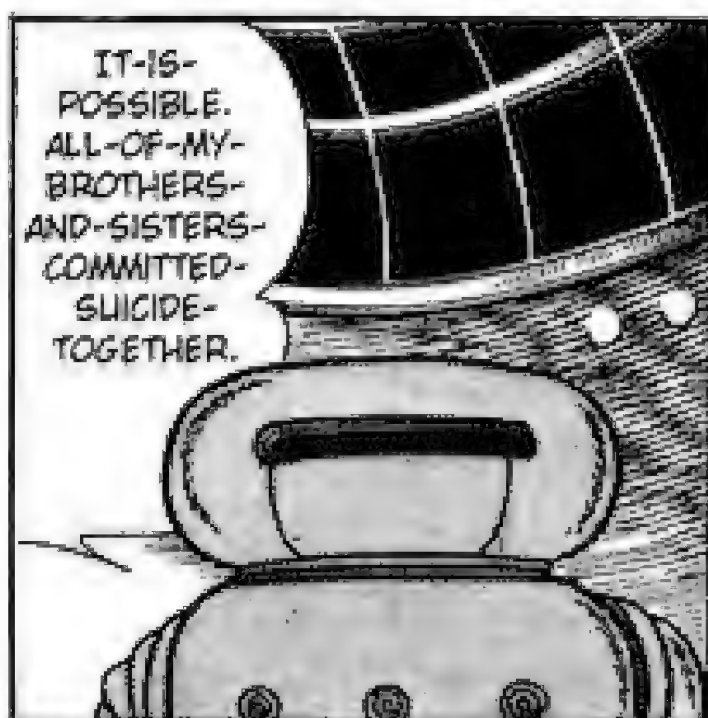




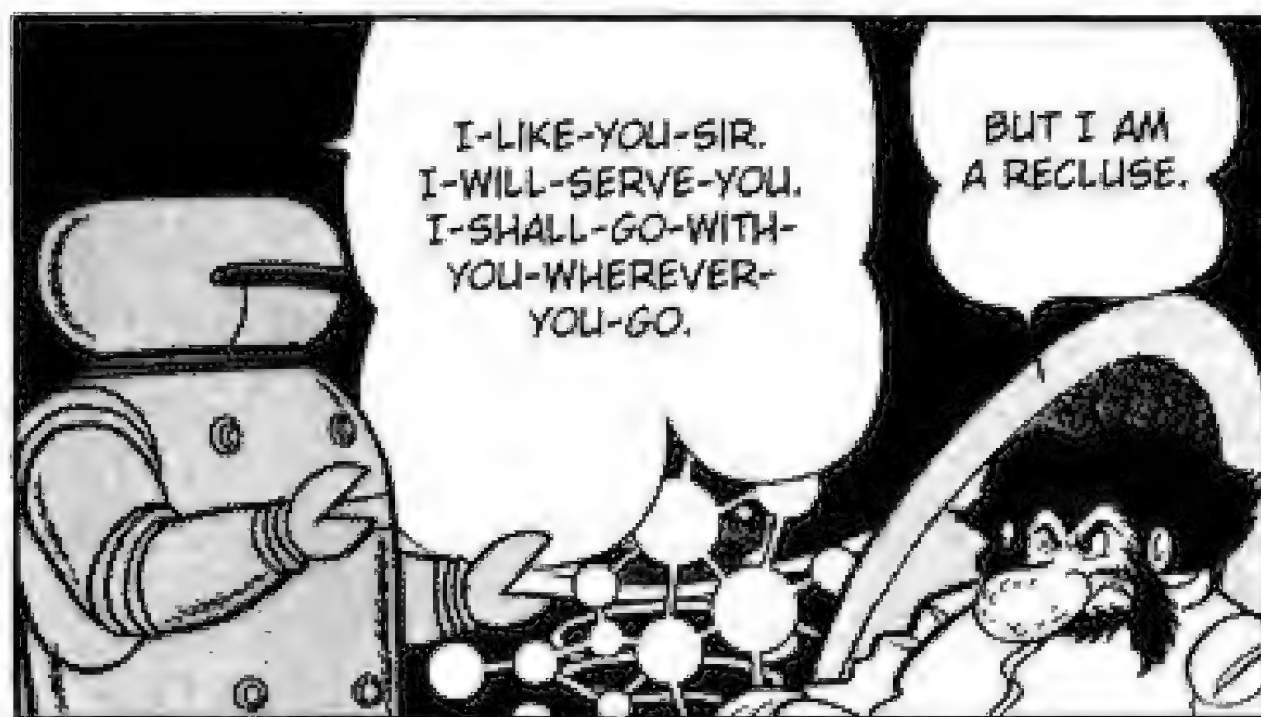








IT-IS-
POSSIBLE.
ALL-OF-MY-
BROTHERS-
AND-SISTERS-
COMMITTED-
SUICIDE-
TOGETHER.



I-LIKE-YOU-SIR.
I-WILL-SERVE-YOU.
I-SHALL-GO-WITH-
YOU-WHEREVER-
YOU-GO.

BUT I AM
A RECLUSE.



EVERYONE ON
EARTH CALLS
ME A WEIRDO
OR CRAZY MAN...

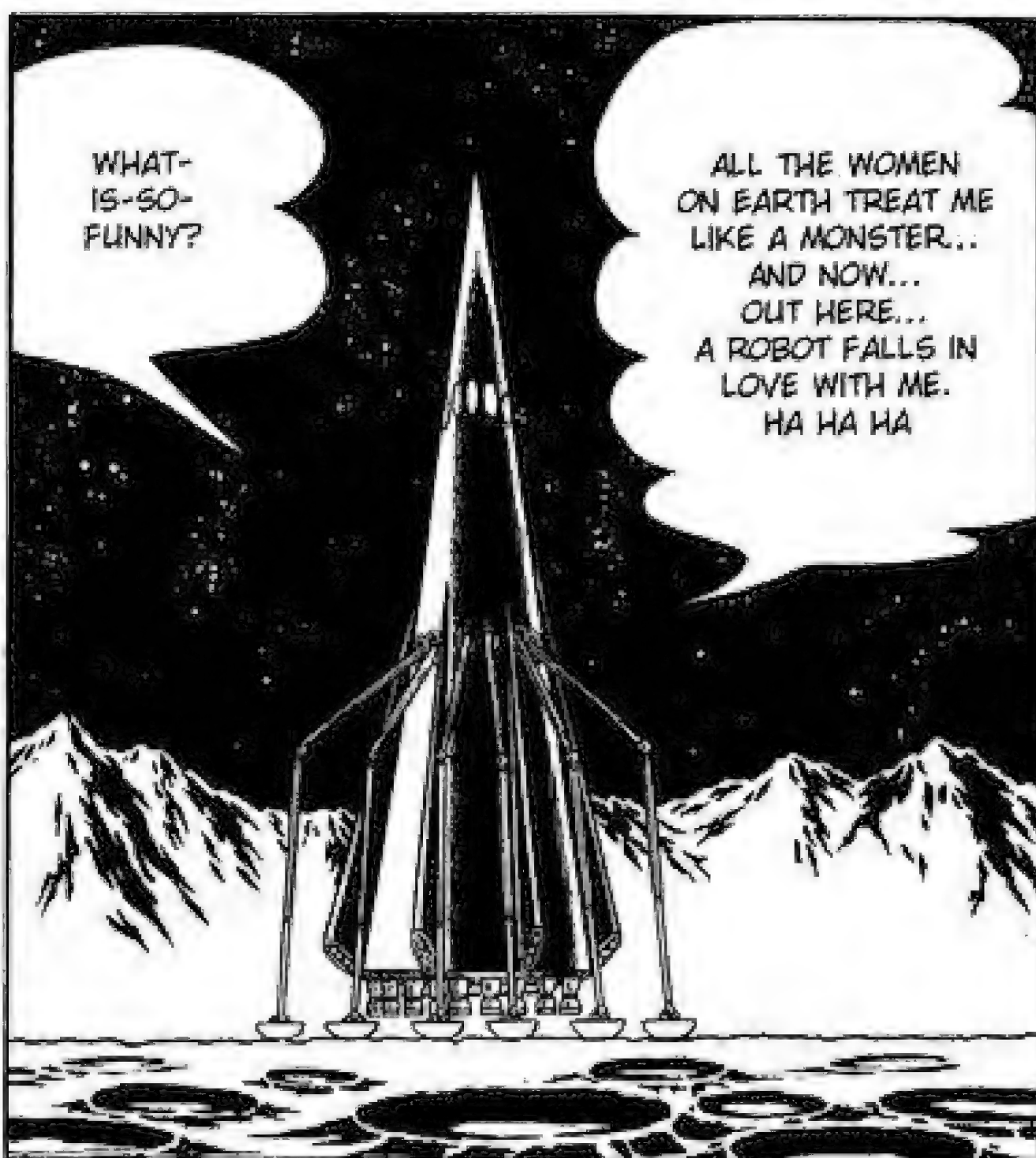
I'VE BEEN
WANDERING ALL
OVER THE UNIVERSE
LOOKING FOR THE
SECRET OF LIFE...

LIFE----?



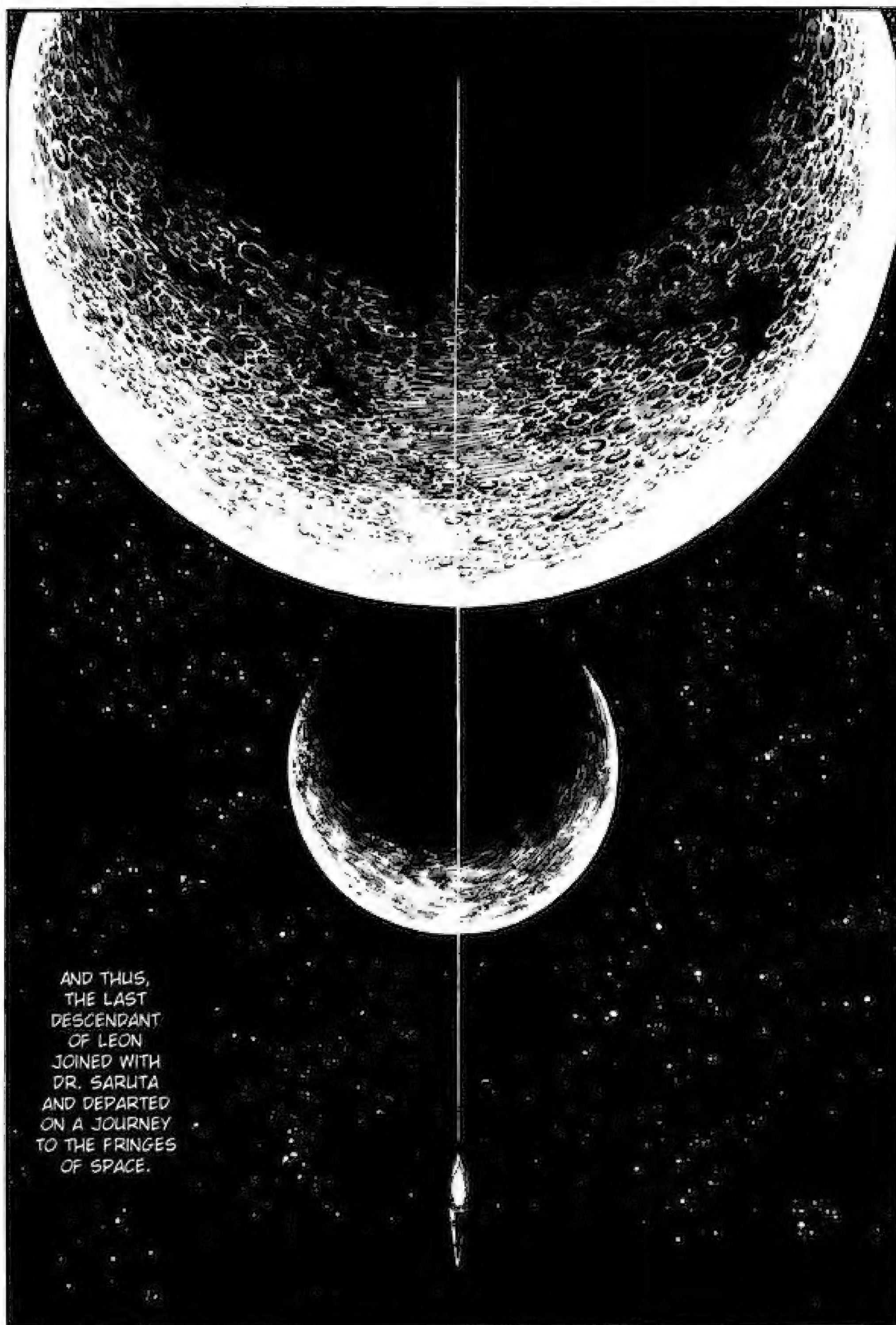
I-LIKE-
YOU---,
I-WILL-
HELP-
YOU.

HA
HA
HAR
HAH

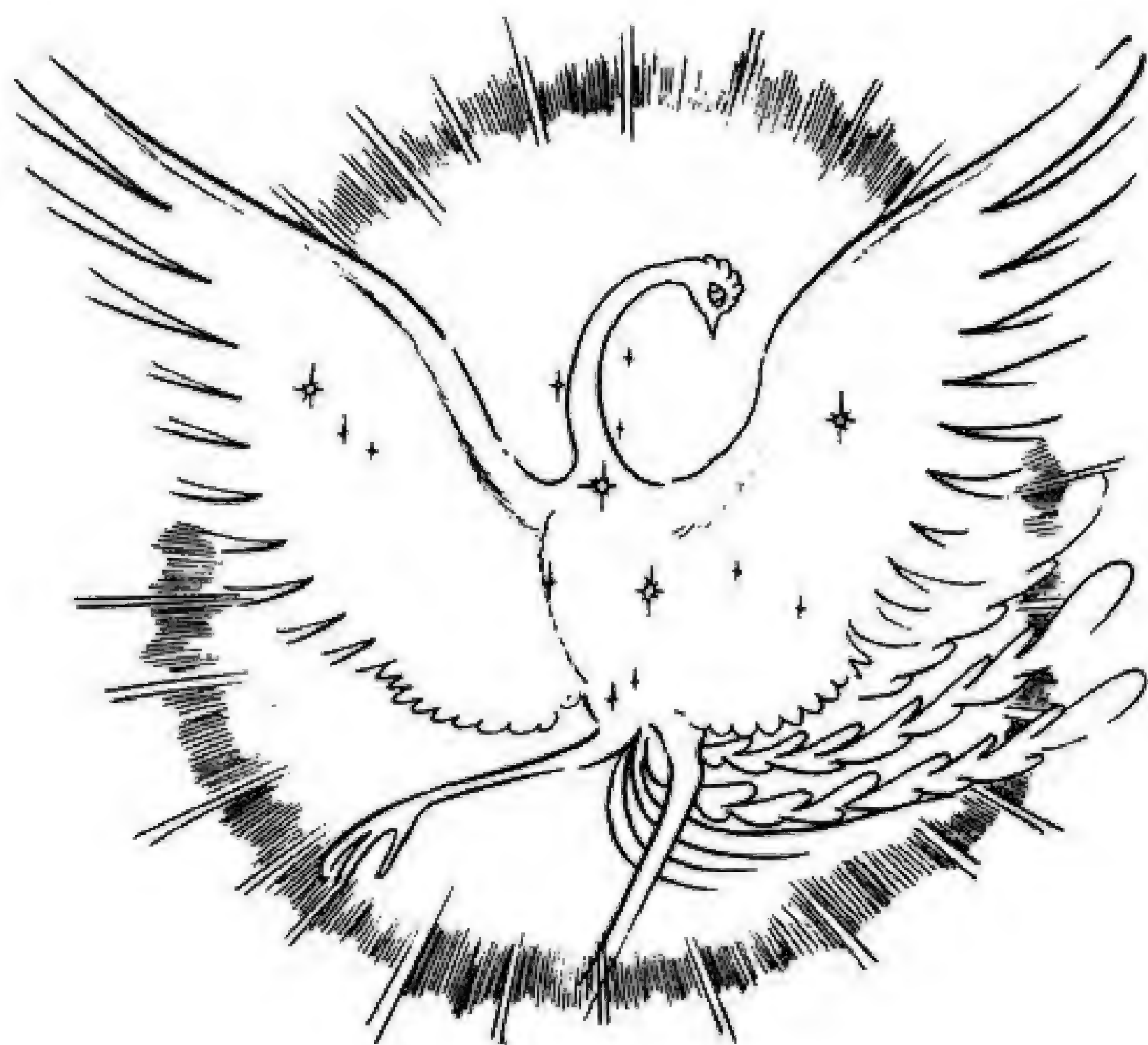


WHAT-
IS-SO-
FUNNY?

ALL THE WOMEN
ON EARTH TREAT ME
LIKE A MONSTER..
AND NOW...
OUT HERE...
A ROBOT FALLS IN
LOVE WITH ME.
HA HA HA



AND THUS,
THE LAST
DESCENDANT
OF LEON
JOINED WITH
DR. SARUTA
AND DEPARTED
ON A JOURNEY
TO THE FRINGES
OF SPACE.



ABOUT THIS EDITION OF *PHOENIX*: *RESURRECTION*

The twelve self-contained yet interlinked stories that compose -- (*Hi no tori* in Japanese, literally "Firebird") is considered by many to be the summit of Osamu Tezuka's artistic achievement. Tezuka himself referred to *Phoenix* as his "life work." Painstakingly composed over a span of decades (initial versions appeared as early as 1954), serialized in a number of venues, and left incomplete with Tezuka's death in 1989, *Phoenix* represents Tezuka's ambitious attempt to push all he knew about the comics medium to address fundamental questions about existence.

All twelve stories in *Phoenix* are linked by the presence of the mythical bird, an immortal guardian of the universal life force. Read in order, the separate stories jump across time, alternating between a distant future and a distant past, converging on the present, with characters from one story being reincarnated in another. The existing twelve stories, totaling over three thousand pages of work, are subtitled "Dawn," "Future," "Yamato," "Space," "Karma," "Resurrection," "Robe of Feathers," "Nostalgia," "Civil War," "Life," "Strange Beings," and "Sun."

This edition, *Phoenix: Resurrection*, is an English translation of the sixth of the twelve *Phoenix* stories. "Resurrection" was first serialized in 1970-71 in the monthly magazine *COM*, which was published by Tezuka as a venue to feature work too challenging or experimental for inclusion in mainstream manga magazines. The only other portion of *Phoenix* to appear in English previously is a 27-page excerpt from Dadakai's translation of "Karma," which was printed in Frederik L. Schodt's *Manga! Manga! The World of Japanese Comics*.

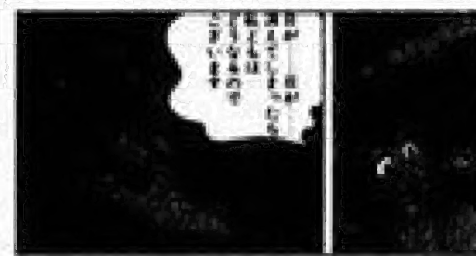


A Journey through Time and Space: An Overview of the Complete *Phoenix* Saga

The complete *Phoenix* saga is a story about mankind that features a historical-narrative structure unlike anything that has come before it. The first volume depicts the dawn of civilization. The second volume jumps to the far future. The setting for the third story shifts back to early history, and so on, back and forth, from past to future; the amplitude decreases as past and future converge to meet in the present.

Dawn (1967) 240-270 A.D.

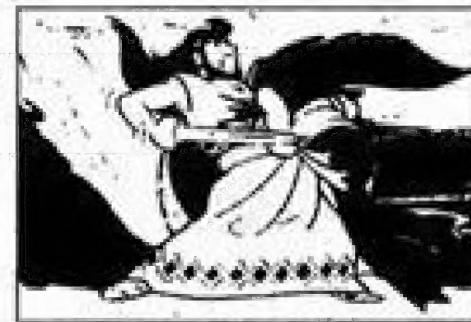
The era of Queen Himiko of the Yamatai Koku. The work quotes from the accounts of the *Gishiwajinden*. Also uses accounts from the legend of *Jinmu Tousei*.



The scene in the Amano Iwato myth where Himiko compares herself to Amaterasu-Omikami and a solar eclipse occurs.

Yamato (1968-69) 320-350 A.D.

Based on the legend of Yamato-takeru-no-mikoto. The dates above were inferred from the account of Old Man Takeru, and from information in *Dawn*.



Disguised as a woman, Prince Yamato Ogura approaches the Chieftain of the Kumaso and stabs him. As told in the Kiki myth, the prince gets the name "Takeru" from his opponent right before he dies.

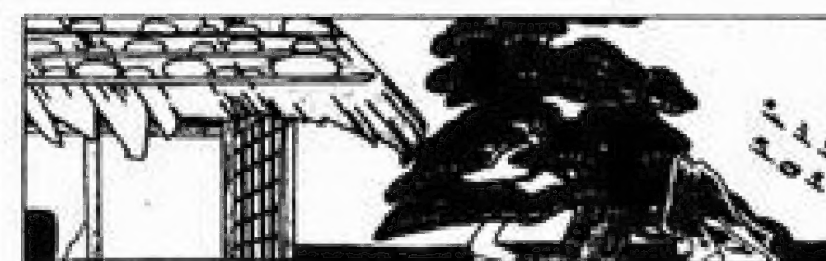
Karma (Hou-ou) (1969-70) 720-752 A.D.

The complicated drama of the spirit of two Buddhist sculptors. Set in the Nara Period (710-794) during the national enterprise of the construction of the Great Buddha. Here, the Hou-ou (a Chinese myth) is the Phoenix.



Akanemaru, who has been ordered by the authorities to be in charge of the construction and design of the Great Buddha, is shocked when the statue sheds tears. The workers become frightened, and the bizarre phenomenon halts construction.

Robe of Feathers (1971) 937-941 A.D.



The spirit of a fisherman is bewitched by the beauty of the woman and he hides her clothes...

A sci-fi version of the Hagoromo Legend of Miho no Matsubara in Enshu (modern day Shizuoka). Set during Taira no Masakado's rebellion which occurred during the Heian Period (898-1185).

The spirit of a woman swimming in the ocean is captured by the beauty of the white sand and green pine.

Civil War (1978-80) 1172-1189 A.D.

The time of the Genpei Kassen (War between the Taira and the Genji) after the fall of the Heishi (Taira Clan). Using the *Heike Monogatari* and *Gikeiki* as a backdrop, this story depicts "combat" as the fate of living things.



Kiso Yoshinaka defeats the Heishi and takes control of the capital. He cuts down the famous monk Myoun. He came to the capital because he is after the Phoenix.

Strange Beings (1981) 1468-1498 A.D.

The Sengoku Period (1482-1558). Sakonnosuke, the heir of General Yagi Iemasa, cuts down the nun, Yaobikuni, who seems to be 800 years old. But she doesn't realize the true relationship between herself and the nun.

The banner bearer is saying that "now" is the beginning of the Sengoku Wars and they are in the middle of the Onin Rebellion. In other words, they are in a time before Sakonnosuke was born!



Sun (1986-88) 663-672 A.D.

The story begins after the defeat of the Japan-Kudara alliance at Hakusukinoe and Japan's withdrawal from the Korean peninsula, and ends with the struggle for the imperial throne during the Jinshin Rebellion.



Emperor Kobun, formerly called Otomo no Miko, is the cousin of Takachi no Miko, who is the son of Oama no Miko.

Future (1967-68) 3404 A.D.-infinity

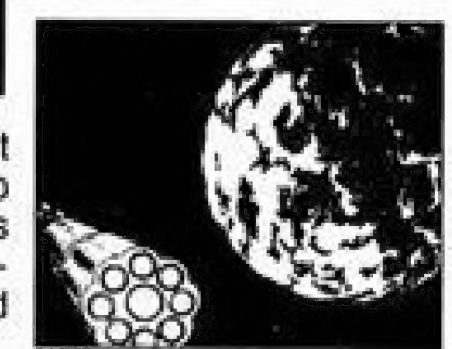
The end of the future. Mankind is in decline and has become very conservative. The earth is run down and faces devastation. Eventually a nuclear war breaks out causing the end of everything.

The Yamato Central Main Building Megalopolis. Yamato is one of the five remaining underground cities of mankind.



Universe (1969) 2577 A.D.

In Orion, a sub-light speed rocket heading towards Earth crashes into a meteorite. The ship becomes unable to fly and four people manage to escape, including Saruta and Nana.



Each of the passengers escapes in an individual escape pod. However, the pods only have enough food for half a year and enough air for a year and a half. Possibilities of survival are...

Resurrection (1970-71) 2482-3344 A.D.

In the year 3344, Prof. Saruta lands on the moon. He meets and acquires Robita in his final form. Spanning 860 years, the end of this episode goes beyond *Universe* and close to the beginning of *Future*.

Robita and this rocket also make appearances in *Future*, where Robita stops Rock and then gets shot by him.



Nostalgia (1976-78) Indeterminate (approx. 25th century)

A Japanese woman named Romy establishes a civilization and history for the formerly uninhabited planet, Eden-17. Her husband dies an unnatural death, but the life she carries inside her...

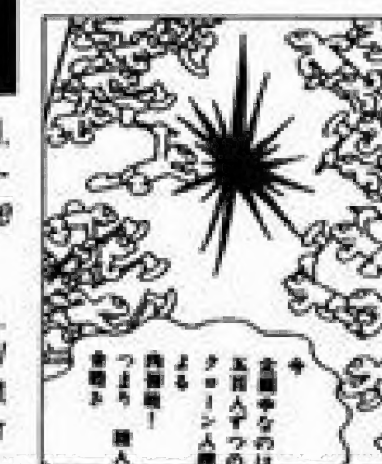


The spaceship is headed for Eden-17. The shiny object in the foreground is its sun. The planet is surrounded by a revolving ring of space dust held there by gravity.

Life (1980) 2155-2170 A.D.

Human clones are being created. It's all for high ratings and a public-killing TV game show called *Clone Man Hunt*.

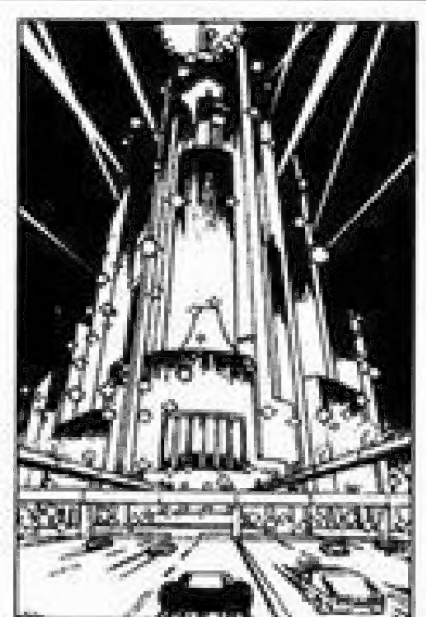
Animal clones were created for food. Human clones are created for a TV show—the cloning company president speaks as a sponsor. A terrifying plan for a TV show!



Sun (1986-88) 2008 A.D.

The "Light Tribe" acquired the Phoenix in space. However, they turn it into an icon and come to control society through religion. Non-believers are called "shadows" and are chased out to live underground.

The head temple of the "Light Tribe." A young shadow boy named Suguru endeavors to climb the great tower and steal the Phoenix.



AFTERWORD

By Takayuki Matsutani

“Tezuka-sensei came to Earth from a distant universe, and when his mission here was accomplished, he returned to outer space...” This notion was expressed several times in the tremendous flood of condolences given by intellectuals, artists, and others active in the fields of manga, film, music, and publishing when Osamu Tezuka passed away thirteen years ago. At the time, my grief over his death was so fresh I dismissed the idea as mere science-fiction fancy. Later, however, as I began sorting through Osamu Tezuka’s legacy, I truly came to believe “Tezuka was a space alien”—it was the only adequate way of explaining his extraordinary artistry.

Look at *Phoenix*. I won’t go into an analysis of the story; rather, I will just point out that it is one of many manga series he created, that during his career of forty-odd years, Tezuka drew 150,000 pages like those you see here. Simple arithmetic shows this comes out to ten pages a day—without a single day off! That’s not all: Tezuka also produced over sixty animation titles (and *Astro Boy*, for instance, a TV series with two hundred episodes, is counted here as just one title!). Add to this over thirty books of prose, frequent television and radio appearances, lectures, interviews, and travels, not to mention stints as producer or director at various expos and other events...It seems impossible that one person could have done it all, yet Tezuka did. Moreover, he did it all himself, virtually without any help. Then consider the breadth of subjects and genres he tackled: historical works, contemporary issues, science fiction, politics, culture, education, character-based drama, epics, short stories, picture books for toddlers, mysteries, psychodramas, fantasy, nonsense, satire, and stories for boys, girls, young adults, and mature readers...in other words, everything under the sun.

It is extremely unfortunate that Tezuka did not live to see the 21st century, where so many of his stories are set.

In 2001, Japan entered an unprecedented economic recession, while the U.S. was assaulted on September 11 by terrorist attacks that far surpassed our wildest imaginings. These attacks then triggered the retaliatory war in Afghanistan, while in the Middle East the Israeli-Palestinian conflict escalated to new heights of violence. The 21st century has gotten off to a horrific start, and now in 2002, the countdown to Armageddon seems only to have accelerated. As globalization moves forward, the world is getting smaller and smaller. If Tezuka were alive today, how would he feel about all this? What kind of message would he send out to children through his works? Sadly, this is something we cannot know.

Although this *Tale of the Future* takes place far beyond our time, in the third millennium A.D., Tezuka set *Astro Boy*’s birthday in the opening years of the 21st century—April 7, 2003, to be exact—only fifty years ahead of the time *Astro Boy* began serialization in 1952. Just seven years after the devastation of World War II, when Japan was still a poor, scrabbling country, Tezuka imagined high-rises and underground cities, expressways snaking between skyscrapers, TV phones, trips to the moon, masses of industrial robots, and even a revolt by robots. Many of these things now actually exist in today’s world, lending proof to Tezuka’s astounding visionary powers. But even more extraordinary to my mind is the fact that, at a time when Japanese cities were still in ruins, when the Japanese people were living day-to-day and hand-to-mouth, and as such put economic recovery above all else, Tezuka—in such works as *Jungle Taitei* (which began serialization in 1950) and *Astro Boy*—was addressing environmental issues, calling for coexistence between human beings and other animals, and reminding us to take care of our precious planet Earth. These themes, which also dominate the *Phoenix* series, are the most pressing and relevant issues facing humanity today. That Tezuka’s imagination could reach so far amidst the reality of 1950s Japan is the mark of genius.

Tezuka continued working up to three weeks before his death. As his strength waned, and he became too weak even to sit up in bed, he would still struggle with all his might to rise.

“I’m begging you, let me work!” were his final words. His wife desperately tried to calm him down, but Tezuka had always been a workaholic, a man who worked without rest.



What made Tezuka so compulsively creative, so urgently obsessive about his work?

Tezuka experienced World War II as a teenager. He spoke of having seen entire neighborhoods turned into a sea of flames by bombs and charred corpses lying on the streets afterwards. He remembered the deeply comforting sight of lights shining brightly in people's homes the night of August 15, 1945—the first night of peace. The war was finally over, the blackouts a thing of the past, and he savored the return of peace with profound gratitude. But at the same time, he swore to himself never to forget the tragic consequences of war, and to pass on his own experiences of war to the children of the future.

The next year, 1946, Tezuka was studying medicine at Osaka University and also made his debut as a professional manga artist. Although he did brilliant manga work and met with success, Tezuka finished his studies as well and obtained a physician's license. Medicine was, then as now, a highly respected and economically stable profession. In contrast, children's manga were dismissed as cheap entertainment; moreover, only a handful of people could make a living from drawing them. Even so, and in spite of the social conditions of the time, Tezuka chose manga over medicine.

Of course he loved drawing manga, probably loved it more than anything else. But I believe he was driven by something more than that: he chose manga because he felt it was his mission to spread the message of peace and respect for life to the children of the future. And Tezuka probably knew, better than anyone else, that he had staked his future on an amazing medium. Today, computer-enhanced Hollywood movies are taking the world by storm. With computer graphics, people can morph easily into different shapes and interact in the same frame with dinosaurs. Some say that manga and animation have lost their advantages and been surpassed. But for those of us who have read Tezuka's works, Hollywood has only now caught up, just barely, with the expressive capacity of manga. Over fifty years ago, Tezuka knew that manga—back then an art form still in its infancy—could express anything and everything the imagination could conjure, from the mundane to the utterly fantastic.

However, and this is probably the same all over the

world, manga has always been viewed as inferior to other art forms, such as painting, prose, music, and theater. Manga was denounced by adults, who claimed it had a bad influence on children. Tezuka battled against the censure of these adults all his life, and this fight for acceptance was another driving force in his passion for work.

Some years ago, Japanese newspapers reported an incident in which children were told to bring all their manga books to school so they could throw them into a big bonfire in the yard. Yes, recent book-burnings in Japan focused on manga. I don't claim that all manga are good. As with any other art form, there is good work and bad work. But Tezuka, conscious of the average adult's bias toward manga, worked indefatigably to change that bias. Most importantly, of course, he created high-quality manga, but he also appeared frequently on TV, wrote essays and articles for magazines and newspapers, and did everything else he could in his crusade to bring manga the recognition it deserved as a legitimate art form.

In the year Tezuka died, a national art museum held an Osamu Tezuka exhibition. No museum of that stature had ever mounted a manga-related exhibition before. The culture of manga has been supported by many talented artists, most of them inspired by Tezuka, and today, there are numerous manga works that far outstrip novels and films in popularity, scope, and ambition.

The day after Tezuka passed away, a major newspaper eulogized him in an editorial, "Why do Japanese love manga so much? Foreigners apparently find it very strange to see adults engrossed in weekly comic magazines on the train...One explanation for this is that, in their countries, they did not have Osamu Tezuka." Not only was it extremely unusual for a major newspaper, let alone in an editorial, to discuss manga or a manga artist, but this was praise of the highest sort. Yes, manga in Japan today have earned a secure place as a respectable art form.

Osamu Tezuka devoted his entire life to manga, and *Phoenix* is one of his representative works. I hope you enjoy it.

Takayuki Matsutani
President, Tezuka Productions

Translated from the Japanese by Akemi Wegmuller

Note: This article appeared earlier in the first edition of *PHOENIX: A TALE OF THE FUTURE*. The second edition of this title is now available as *PHOENIX: FUTURE*.